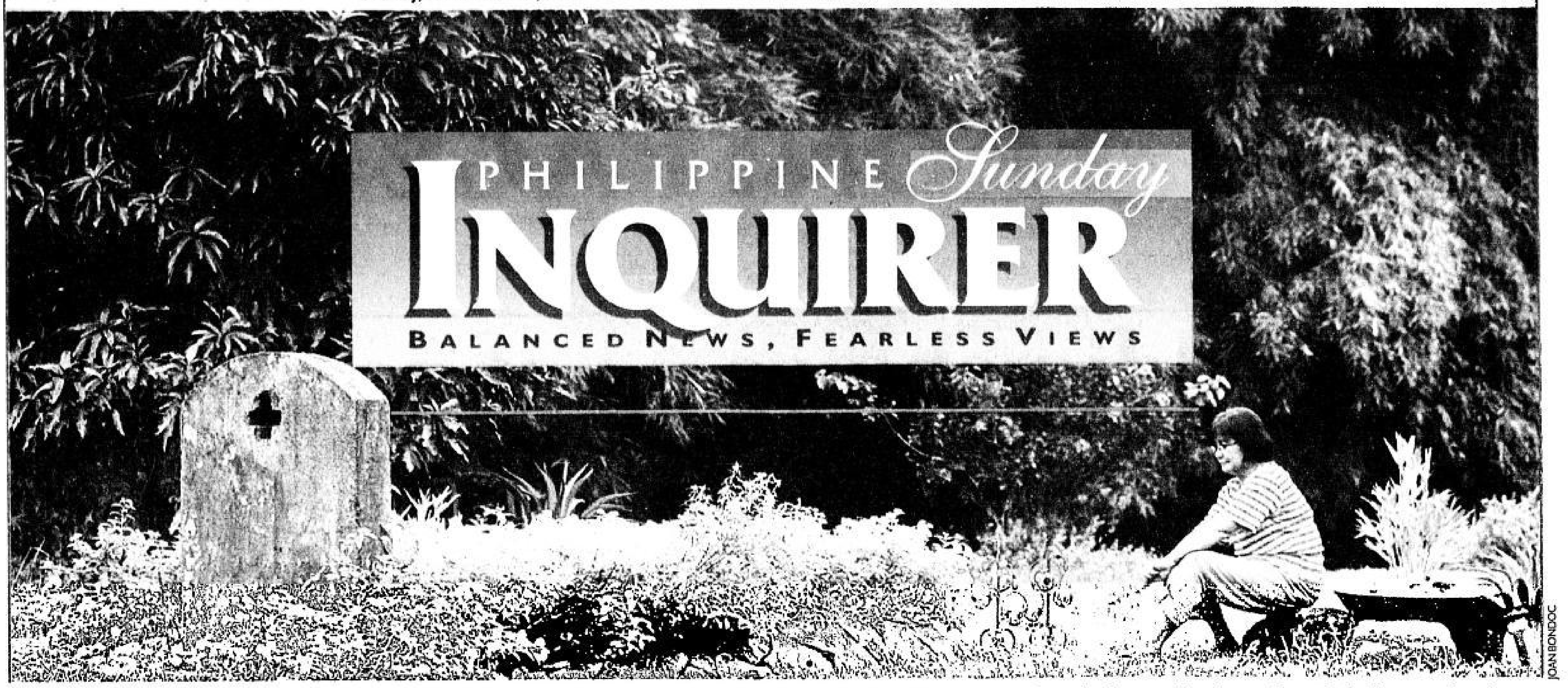
Sunday, November 18, 2007 ★★ 16 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 343 P20 Website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



JOAN BONDOC

REFLECTIONS UPON A FARM IN BULACAN. On the 4th death anniversary of press freedom fighter Jose Burgos, his widow Edita pauses from her relentless searching the past 7 months for disappeared son Jonas.

Guide vs climate change out

Breakthrough UN report to be presented in Bali next month

VALENCIA, SPAIN—"A REAL breakthrough" in climate change negotiations has become a clear possibility with the adoption of a landmark report on global warming by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The IPCC is the world's leading authority on climate change. It won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize alongside former US Vice President Al Gore.

The 130-state IPCC, following six days of sometimes tense negotiations, adopted a concise briefing paper on the science of climate change and the effects of human-produced greenhouse gases. It lays out various scenarios of future impacts, depending on how quickly and decisively action is taken.

The Summary for Policymakers and a longer version called the synthesis report distill thousands of pages of data and computer models resulting from six years of research compiled by the IPCC.

It will be a how-to guide for policymakers meeting on Dec. 3-14 in Bali, Indonesia, who will begin discussing a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol, which requires 36 industrial countries to reduce carbon emissions by an average 5 percent from 1990 levels by 2012.

"This report will be formally presented to the [UN Climate Change] Conference in Bali," UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told IPCC delegates and praised them for agreeing to adopt the document.

"Already, it has set the stage for a re-

GUIDE/ A17

Guyito's trip for reading's sake wins Quill award

By DJ Yap

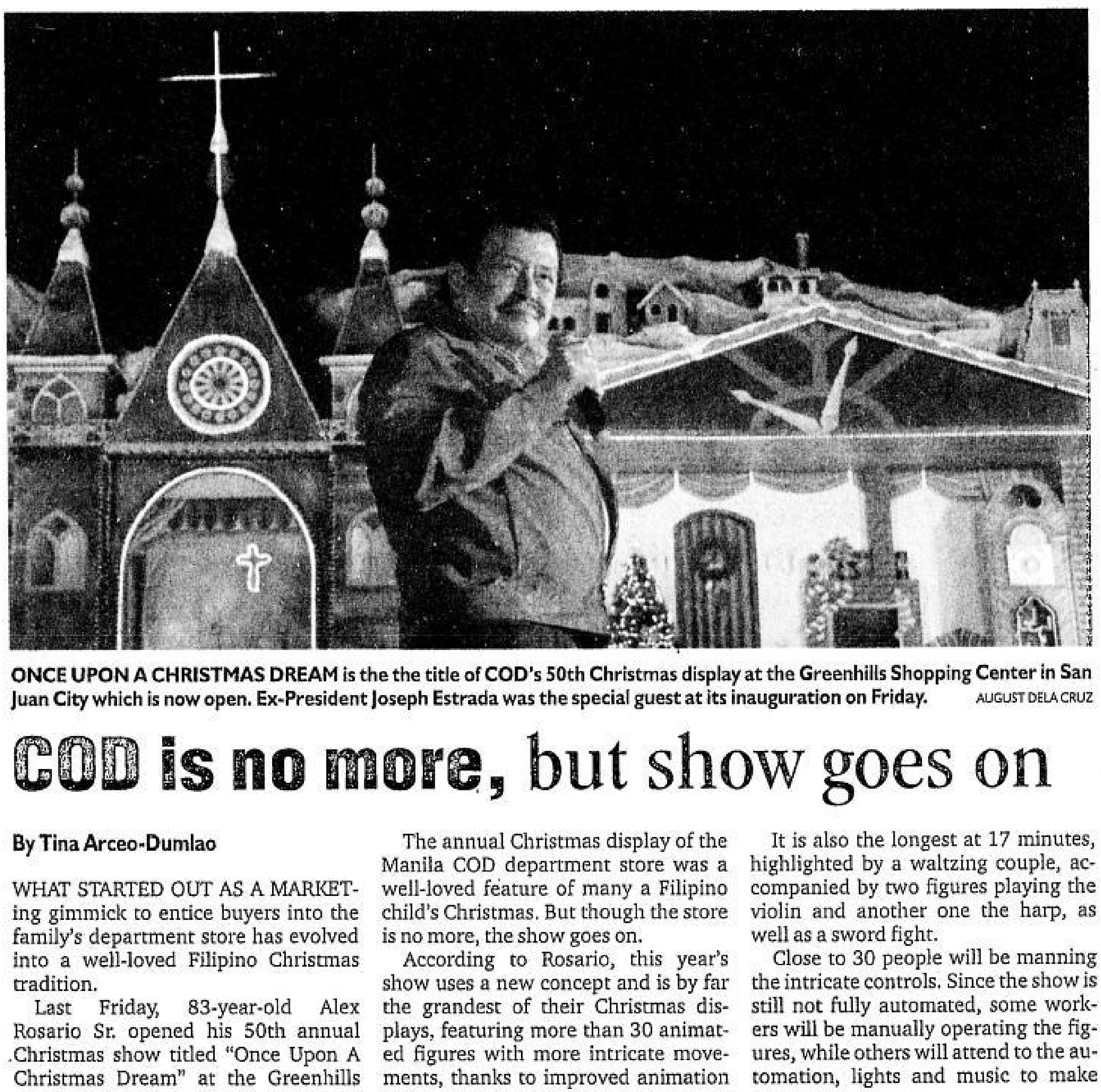
FOR A WHOLE YEAR, THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer's Guyito traveled to 20 different parts of the archipelago bringing joy and love of reading among high schoolers.

And for its efforts, the paper's "Knowledge Trip with Guyito" project has been adjudged one of the best examples of corporate social responsibility today.

Guyito is the INQUIRER's carabao mascot.

On Wednesday, the INQUIRER received an award of merit, under the category of special events, internal or external, division 1, from the Philippine Quill, the country's most prestigious award-giving body for business

GUYITO'S/ A8



ONCE UPON A CHRISTMAS DREAM is the the title of COD's 50th Christmas display at the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan City which is now open. Ex-President Joseph Estrada was the special guest at its inauguration on Friday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

COD is no more, but show goes on

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHAT STARTED OUT AS A MARKETing gimmick to entice buyers into the family's department store has evolved into a well-loved Filipino Christmas tradition.

Last Friday, 83-year-old Alex Rosario Sr. opened his 50th annual Christmas show titled "Once Upon A Christmas Dream" at the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan.

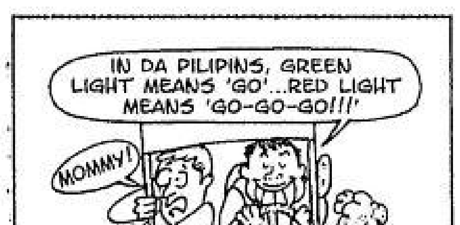
The annual Christmas display of the Manila COD department store was a well-loved feature of many a Filipino child's Christmas. But though the store is no more, the show goes on.

According to Rosario, this year's show uses a new concept and is by far the grandest of their Christmas displays, featuring more than 30 animated figures with more intricate movements, thanks to improved animation techniques.

It is also the longest at 17 minutes, highlighted by a waltzing couple, accompanied by two figures playing the violin and another one the harp, as well as a sword fight.

Close to 30 people will be manning the intricate controls. Since the show is still not fully automated, some workers will be manually operating the figures, while others will attend to the automation, lights and music to make

COD NO MORE/ A10



IN DA PILIPINS, GREEN LIGHT MEANS 'GO'...RED LIGHT MEANS 'GO-GO-GO!!!'
MOMMY!

For Pinoy drivers, traffic lights are mere suggestions

By Tessa R. Salazar

AS THE STORY GOES, WHEN Formula 1 driver Jenson Button visited Manila a few years ago, he quipped: "I can see lots of Formula 1 driving out here."

Button's wry observation has been echoed by many first-time visitors to Metro Manila. How can Filipinos, known for being hospitable, generous and caring, be transformed into road bullies when behind the wheel?

Mandy Eduque, Automobile Association Philippines director, likes to quote an Australian traffic consultant of a public works project who made this stunning observation: For Filipino drivers,

FOR PINOY/ A10

Paradise city of China all out to overcome language barrier

By Jocelyn R. Uy

HANGZHOU, CHINA—FILIPINO TRAVelers and other foreign tourists need not use hand signals to get their message across at least in this part of China. Nor should they worry about getting lost if they go around without maps or an English-speaking Chinese tour guide.

Touted as China's paradise city for its rolling hills, clear lakes, and majestic temples and pagodas, Hangzhou is perking up its tourism industry with a taxi information system and digital

PARADISE/ A8

Top dogs of 3G disasters search, rescue in demo

By Julie M. Aurelio

CHAIRMAN, PIOLO AND REBELLE, top dogs all, have been through the worst "3Gs" in recent years—the Guinobatan (Albay) and Guinsaugon (Southern Leyte) landslides in 2006, and the Glorietta 2 explosion last month.

Of the three, it was Chairman, a female Belgian Malinois, who pulled the body of the last victim, Maureen de Leon, from the rubble at the popular shopping mall.

Chairman showed off her form at a training exercise in Taguig City last week, smartly trotting around piles of rock and concrete blocks and then nudging a piece of galvanized iron with her black, dusty nose.

When she had sniffed enough, she let out an excited, high-pitched bark to announce her find.

"Rescuers" retrieved from the rubble a "pretend victim," who rewarded Chairman with a back rub as well as a long, satisfying chew on her toy—a rubber hose.

The exercise demonstrated how Chairman probably found Maureen de Leon's body on the night of Oct. 20, a day after the explosion at Glorietta 2.

Called "mission-ready dogs," Chairman and Rebelle, also a Belgian Malinois, and Piolo, a Boxer, have been trained by two American experts in canine search and rescue to prepare them

TOP DOGS/ A8

RODEL ROTONI

UPGRADING a dog's skills in order to certify him as a K9 "disaster responder."

JOB Market
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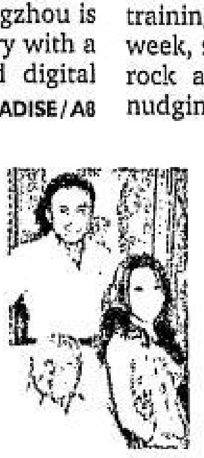
SUNDAY MAGAZINE
The tradition of Philippine luxury started with a woman's unerring eye and tireless spirit



JUNIOR INQUIRER
Kids speak up: What they don't like on TV

ENTERTAINMENT / J1
Pinoy directs TV commercial starring Penelope Cruz

LIFESTYLE / F2
Orig lifestyle guru, Dr. Teyet Pascual, blends cool cutting edge and classic Old World setting

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Northeastern Mindanao which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/11/17/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

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Second FRONTPAGE

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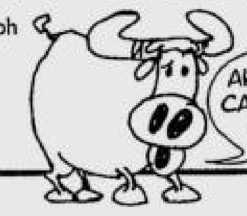
AKALA KO BA CASE SOLVED NA DAW?

EZ2 11 17

SIX DIGIT 8 3 6 4 8 0

(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

5 4 3 | 6 9 1

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN

12 16 26 27 29 42

P19,337,972.40

Salapuddin shows up at police HQ

'I have nothing to hide,' says foe of slain Rep. Wahab Akbar

By TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa

WITHOUT WAITING FOR AN INVITATION, FORmer congressman Gerry Salapuddin yesterday went to the Philippine National Police headquarters at Camp Crame to end the speculation, he said, about his supposed role in the Batasan bombing.

"I went there on my own to clear my name. I voluntarily presented myself as a demonstration of my sincerity and transparency. I'm not hiding anything," Salapuddin said in a phone interview.

He said he went to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group with his lawyer at around 9 a.m., and willingly answered questions on the Nov. 13 explosion at the House of Representatives.

He said he was alarmed by a Friday night TV news report linking him to the blast that killed his political rival, Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar, and three others, and wanted to know if he was a suspect.

"I asked them [the police] if I'm a suspect, and they said no," the former House deputy speaker for Mindanao said.

Investigators believe that three alleged members of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap group who were killed in a clash with police and three others arrested in Payatas, Quezon City, on Thursday were responsible for the bombing.

Salapuddin admitted knowing two of the slain suspect, and the three men who were arrested.

The police on Friday declared the case "solved but not yet closed" with the killing of the three alleged Abu Sayyaf members and the arrest of their alleged conspirators.

The police are due to file charges against the three suspects on Monday, but PNP Director General Avelino Razon said they had yet to unmask the mastermind behind the bombing.

"That depends on the investigation of our units on the ground," he said.

He said the three suspects had provided information that tended to point to an assassination against Akbar.

P5M to tipster

Meanwhile, the tipster who provided the information on the whereabouts of the suspects will be P5 million richer.

"Most likely the tipster will get the whole reward," Razon said.

Razon clarified that the police were still assessing the information given by the tipster, a civilian, but the reward will be given, he said.

Police who participated in the operation to arrest the suspects will not be given a reward, Razon said.

Razon said a "concerned citizen" had tipped police off on the whereabouts of Abu Jandal, a member of the Abu Sayyaf with a P150,000 reward on his head.

Acting on the tip and armed with arrest warrants, a team of soldiers and policemen tried to serve the warrants on Jandal, who is wanted for kidnapping, at a house on Anahaw Street, Violago Homes, in Barangay Payatas on Thursday.

Razon said Jandal resisted arrest and a firefight ensued, resulting in the deaths of Jandal, Redwan Indama and his wife Saing. Three suspects—Ikram Indama, Kaidar Awnal and Adham Kusain—were arrested during the raid.

Salipuddin's lawyer, George Garcia, said his client admitted to knowing Ikram Indama who was his driver for more than three years and identified the slain Indama couple as former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) commanders. Salapuddin himself was a former MNLF commander.

The former congressman also said that his former driver had relatives who were members of the Abu Sayyaf.

Not all were Abu

"The Indamas are noted members of the Abu Sayyaf, but not all. He's [Ikram] not one of them," he said.

Salapuddin also confirmed that Awnal was a former brother-in-law, and that he had helped Kusain get employment as a pushcart boy at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport a few months ago.

Salapuddin said he doubted Redwan Indama and his wife were Abu Sayyaf members.

He said he didn't know Jandal.

De Venecia's doubts

Speaker Jose de Venecia said he doubted the police theory that Akbar was the only target of the bomb attack.

To be convincing, the PNP has to produce a confession and identify a mastermind, he said.

De Venecia defended Salapuddin who he said was a "scholar and a gentleman ... a decent individual."

Muslim leaders yesterday cast doubt on the police theory that the Batasan bombing was an offshoot of local political rivalries in Basilan province.

It could be part of a scenario to rally support for the full implementation of the Anti-Terror Law or military rule, said convenors of the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy.

PCID convenor Amina Rasul said it would have been stupid of Salapuddin to order the assassination of Akbar by detonating a bomb in the Batasan and end up being the subject of an investigation.

Nasser Marohomsalic, another convenor and a former human rights commissioner, said it defied logic for the alleged Abu Sayyaf members to linger in Quezon City after carrying out the bombing.

With Michael Lim Ubac

WHAT'S INSIDE

JUSTIFY STEEP HIKE IN OIL prices, Palace orders firms /A4

MOTHER OF RAPE VICTIMS protests prisoner treaty with Spain /A4

MNLF PROTESTS HOMELAND pact between gov't, MILF /A4

NEW PAPAL NUNCIO HAILS RP as 'great believer in God' /A7

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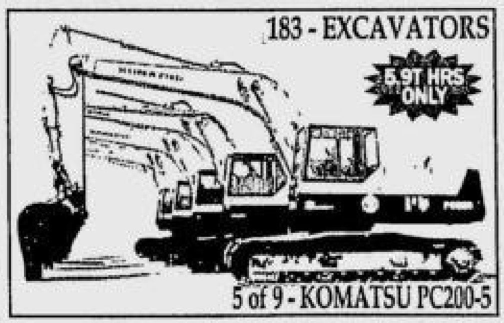

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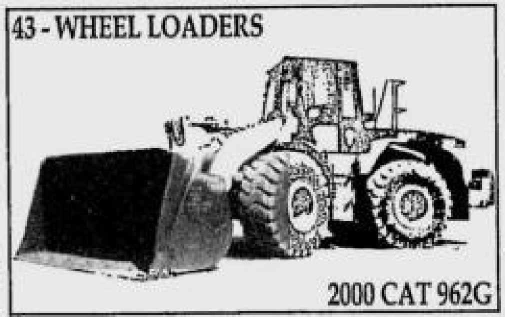
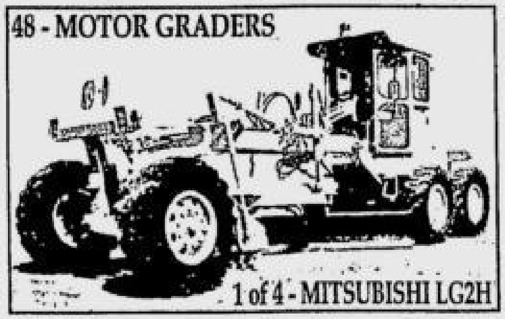
5 of 9 - KOMATSU PC200-5

43 - WHEEL LOADERS

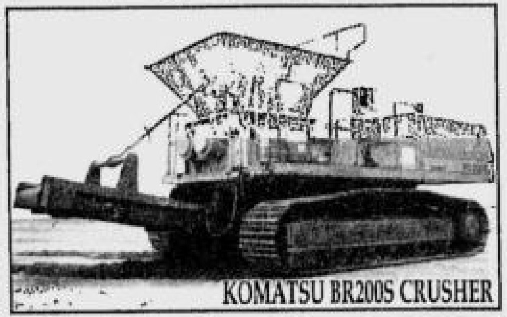


2000 CAT 962G

48 - MOTOR GRADERS



1 of 4 - MITSUBISHI LG2H



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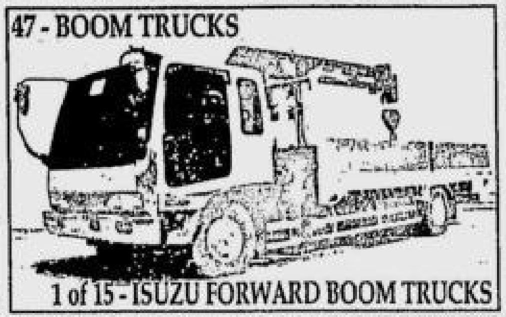
44 - WING VANS

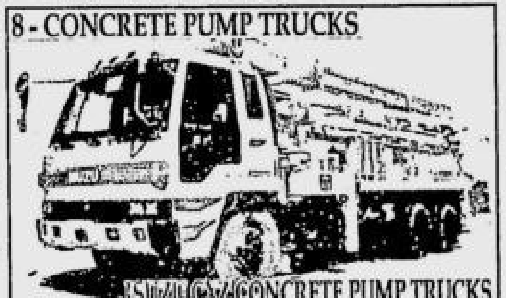
1 of 3 - ISUZU GIGA GM ALUM WING VANS

47 - BOOM TRUCKS



1 of 15 - ISUZU FORWARD BOOM TRUCKS

8 - CONCRETE PUMP TRUCKS



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NOVEMBER 24-30
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Eric Mack has helped more than 350 corporate and government clients in 25 years as an eProductivity specialist. Through his eProductivity technology coaching and seminars, he has inspired thousands.

Schedule of Sessions

NOVEMBER 24, Saturday
General Track
SESSION 1 | 9 AM - 10:30 AM
eProductivity: Using Information, Communication, and Action tools to get things done
Beyond Toil: A Biblical Perspective on Work
Beyond Working Hard: The eProductivity Equation
SESSION 2 | 10:30 AM - 12 NN
Beyond Overwhelm: Methodologies for Productivity I
SESSION 3 | 1:30 PM - 3 PM
Beyond Overwhelm: Methodologies for Productivity II
Beyond Flat Lists: Thinking and Planning Visually
Beyond Chaos: Creating Knowledge in an Age of Information Overwhelm
SESSION 4 | 3 PM - 5 PM
Beyond 9-5: Becoming an Entrepreneur
Beyond Average: Cultivating Habits of Excellence at Work
Beyond the Long Way: Shortcuts to Productivity
Beyond Drift: Crafting a Mission Statement for Your Life and Family

NOVEMBER 26, Monday
Advanced Track
SESSION 1 | 2 PM - 3:30 PM
Beyond the Cubicle: Technology for the Mobile Workers
SESSION 2 | 3:30 PM - 5 PM
Beyond Personal Productivity: Technology for Groups and Teams
General Track
SESSION 5 | 7 PM - 8 PM
Beyond Interruptions: Being Productive in an Always On World
SESSION 6 | 8 PM - 9 PM
Beyond Merely Coping: Having Enough Energy for Work, Home and Play

NOVEMBER 27, Tuesday
Advanced Track
SESSION 3 | 2 PM - 3:30 PM
Beyond Theory: What Eric Mack Uses To Be Productive
SESSION 4 | 3:30 PM - 5 PM
Beyond Today: Key Technologies on the Horizon for Productivity [and Connection]
Beyond the Long Way: Shortcuts to Productivity (For tech geeks)
General Track
SESSION 7 | 7 PM - 8 PM
Beyond Me: Working Effectively in a Team/Group
SESSION 8 | 8 PM - 9 PM
Beyond Surfing: Using the Web for Business
Beyond Dull: Being Safe on the Internet

NOVEMBER 29, Thursday
Executive Track
SESSION 1 | 9 AM - 10:30 AM
Beyond Individuals: Creating Effective Teams and Groups at Work
SESSION 2 | 10:30 AM - 12 PM
Beyond Email: Re-wiring the Organization for Collaboration
SESSION 3 | 1:30 PM - 3 PM
Beyond Technology: Achieving a Business Return from Technology Investments
SESSION 4 | 3 PM - 5 PM
Beyond Information: Cultivating an Environment for Sharing Knowledge Across the Organization
Beyond the Long Way: Shortcuts to Productivity

NOVEMBER 30, Friday
Student Track
3 PM - 6 PM
Beyond Overwhelm: Methodologies for Productivity
Beyond Flat Lists: Thinking and Planning Visually
Beyond the Long Way: Shortcuts to Productivity
*Session titles and schedule are subject to change.

Fees

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*Those enrolling in the advanced & executive tracks are welcome to attend the general track as well.

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Burgos ma appeals for Jonas on Joe's anniversary

By Fe Zamora

BARANGAY TARTARO, SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—Edita Burgos, mother of missing activist Jonas Burgos, yesterday gathered her family at the tomb of her husband, press freedom icon Jose "Joe" Burgos Jr., and aired an appeal to her son's captors.

"I am hoping that Jonas is still alive. But if he is dead, please give me his body so I can give him a proper burial," she said, on the occasion of her husband's fourth death anniversary.

Burgos said hearing reports of torture suffered by others who had gone missing and were eventually released by the military, was in itself a horrible experience for any mother with a "disappeared" son or daughter.

"They (captors) are no longer human, that's why we have to offer prayers for the captors, for their enlightenment," Burgos said in an interview at the farm that Jonas, an agriculturist, had planted to organic rice, citrus trees, and even flowers.

Hybrid citrus trees

The media icon's graveyard was planted with triple-root stock *suha*, one of the hybrid citrus trees that Jonas developed before he disappeared.

Jonas had grafted the seedlings of two *calamansi* (native lime) and one *suha* (pomelo) trees, which resulted in a more stable root base that can withstand strong winds. Burgos said her son worked on the triple rootstock because he noted that the single rootstock citrus trees were easily felled by typhoons.

Jonas had been teaching organic farming to farmers' groups in Bulacan. The military, however, said he was a ranking member of the communist New People's Army.

Jonas was abducted by armed men from a mall in Quezon City on April 28. The plate number on the kidnappers' vehicle was later traced to a vehicle impounded at the 56th Infantry Battalion in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Amparo's promise

Aside from prayers, Burgos said her lawyers would avail of the writ of amparo, a new legal tool that compels decisive action and accountability from authorities, instead of just blanket denials.

The writ of amparo took effect on Oct. 24. So far, two activists held by the military on suspicion that they were members of the NPA, have been released on the strength of the writ.

Burgos said she was also writing the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to continue hearing Jonas' case.

"It's not true that I'm not cooperating," she said.

According to her, it was the CHR that stopped the hearing after Maj. Gen. Delfin Bangit, former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), appeared before it in June.

Incomplete report

Last week, the Armed Forces finally released its findings on how a license plate (TAB 194) of a jeep impounded at the Army camp in Bulacan ended up on the vehicle used to abduct Jonas.

Burgos said the report was "incomplete" and her lawyer would appeal for the release of the affidavits of the 16 officers and men who were summoned to shed light on the matter.

The military has denied involvement in the abduction and claimed the license plate had been stolen from the camp.

The police also claimed Jonas was an officer in the communist New People's Army and was kidnapped by his comrades for pilfering funds.

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Justify steep price hikes, Palace orders oil firms

By Michael Lim Ubac and Abigail L. Ho

WORRIED BY THE SERIES OF OIL price hikes, Malacafiang yesterday ordered the local oil companies to explain their price adjustments even as the government started crafting "safety nets" to cushion the impact on consumers.

Emerging from a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes told reporters that the oil firms should justify the latest price increases which took effect starting at 6 a.m. yesterday to the public considering that the peso continued to gain strength.

Citing the escalating price of oil in the world market, local oil firms raised the pump prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos per liter and LPG (liquified petroleum gas) by P1.12 per kilogram over the weekend.

The latest price hike was the 16th this year for gasoline for a total of P9 a liter, the 13th for diesel for a total of P6.50 a liter, and also the 13th for kerosene for a total of P7 a liter. LPG prices have risen 13 times for a total of P10.08 a kilo, but have also gone down seven times for a total of P3.36 a kilo, including the value-added tax.

Reyes said officials of the oil companies would be summoned by the Department of Energy next week to a dialogue to explain the new round of increases.

Unreasonableness

The DOE and Department of Justice are looking into the unreasonableness of the price increases, he said, noting that the peso has remained strong.

"If the peso's exchange rate was still P55 per dollar, the prices per liter of gasoline and diesel will be more expensive by about P7 to P8 per liter," Reyes said.

Reyes said he had written all the oil companies to inquire about their rationale for the price adjustments.

The DOE will also strictly implement the Biofuels Law, which seeks to reduce dependence on imported fuel by mandating the use of biofuels. The law requires all gasoline users and oil companies to blend the fuel they sell with either biodiesel or bioethanol.

Cerge Remonde, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, said the Palace was open to the idea of subsidizing some oil products.

"I'm sure the government is open to all constructive proposals, to mitigate the effects of the oil price hikes, especially to the poor, and we are ready to discuss this with the proponents," he said.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Total (Philippines) Corp. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. raised their pump prices at 6 a.m. yesterday, followed by Petron Corp. at 9 a.m. and Chevron Philippines Inc. at noon.

Flying V and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. implemented the same price adjustments at 12:01 a.m. today.

Data from the DOE showed that as of Nov. 9, the regional benchmark Dubai crude surged to an average of $86.47 a barrel from $77.12 a barrel last month.

All-time high

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products climbed to an average of $99.23 a barrel in the first nine days of the month from the October average of $88.71 a barrel.

MOPS-based diesel likewise soared to an average of $109.01 a barrel in the Nov. 1-9 period from an average of $95.47 a barrel in October.

At current international prices and the foreign exchange rate, Petron said local oil firms have to recover P1.95 a liter, excluding the value-added tax, this month.

So far, gasoline and kerosene prices have risen by P1.50 a liter and diesel prices by P1 a liter.

The international contract price of LPG also hit an all-time high of $747.50 per metric ton (MT) this month from $657.50-per-MT in October.

A militant youth group has urged the government to seriously consider repealing the Oil Deregulation Law.

Anakbayan chair Eleanor de Guzman noted that some public schools were now required to turn off classroom lights and electric fans to save on electricity.

"How awful. We do not only have a shortage of classrooms and textbooks, we now also have an imposed shortage of electricity in public schools," she said.

Kabataan Party president Raymond Palatino said state regulation of oil prices was direly needed to put a stop to soaring oil prices. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

MNLF protests homeland pact between gov't, MILF

By Jeoffrey Maitem
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO National Liberation Front (MNLF) has protested the agreement signed in Kuala Lumpur last week between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) defining the new borders of a Muslim homeland.

MNLF interim vice chair Hatimil Hassan told the Inquirer by phone from Jeddah that their group viewed the agreement as a violation of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF.

Under the 1996 treaty, the MNLF proposed the inclusion of 14 provinces and six cities in Mindanao in the Moro territory. It eventually ended up having only four provinces and one city under the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The ARMM has since been expanded to five provinces after Maguindanao was divided into two.

Hassan said MNLF Chair Nur Misuari had informed the Organization of the Islamic Conference about the "violation." The OIC brokered the 1996 peace agreement and is also at the forefront the government-MILF talks.

Gen. Rodolfo Garcia (ret.), government chief negotiator, has confirmed the agreement which defines the borders of the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE), the MILF-led territory.

"Demarcation has been agreed upon," Garcia was quoted by The Associated Press as saying.

"The agreement on the ancestral domain was already drafted. It's bigger than autonomy, that's why we were delayed in the negotiation on this issue," said MILF civil-military affairs chief Eid Kabalu.

But Kabalu declined to comment on the scope of the territory or if the agreement included the ARMM.

"Let us wait for both panels to issue the full details in due time," he said.

Asked what the MNLF would do in light of the new developments, Hassan said they would propose a meeting with their MILF counterparts to discuss the issue.

"We and our brothers in the MILF need to talk on that matter. There must be coordination to prevent any future problems," Hassan said.

North Cotabato Gov. Jesus Sacdalan warned that the agreement could create more problems rather than solve existing ones.

"There are Muslim communities in my province, which are against inclusion in the Muslim homeland," Sacdalan told the Inquirer by phone.

But Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza welcomed the agreement which, he said, had set the future for the negotiations.

Kabalu said the MILF was hopeful a final peace pact could be signed next year after the most serious hindrance was finally addressed.

The issue on the extent of the Muslim territory has been a major stumbling block to the peace talks with the MILF.

But a prominent Islamic group said the deal might not be as clear-cut as first thought.

Amina Rasul, who heads the Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy, said it would depend on what exactly was agreed upon.

With an AFP report

Chiong sisters' ma protests prisoner treaty with Spain

CEBU CITY—THE MOTHER OF TWO YOUNG women who were raped and killed 10 years ago condemned the signing of a treaty between the Philippines and Spain for the transfer of prisoners after learning that it could benefit one of those convicted of the heinous crime.

"That's crazy. I will oppose that," said Thelma Chiong, mother of rape-murder victims Marijoy and Jacqueline Chiong.

Chiong was reacting to a statement by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago that Francisco Juan "Paco" Larrañaga, who has dual Filipino and Spanish citizenship, could avail himself of a transfer to Spain after the ratification of the treaty.

Larrañaga, son of former Basque jai-alai player Manuel Larrañaga and a member of the Osmeña family, was found guilty of the abduction, rape and murder of Marijoy and Jacqueline in 1997. He was sentenced to death in 2004 but he was removed from death row when the death penalty was abolished last year.

Santiago said she would sponsor on Monday the Treaty on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons with Spain.

Santiago said that Larrañaga, who has a pending appeal in the Supreme Court, could avail himself of the transfer when the treaty is ratified and after his conviction becomes final. *Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

Correction

IN THE NOV. 17 ISSUE, a front-page story—"No. 8 car frequent visitor on Anahaw St."—misspelled the name of one of the fatalities in the Payatas shootout. He was Redwan Indama—not Idaman.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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UPCBA HONORS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

The UP College of Business Administration will be awarding seven (7) Distinguished Alumni during the Alumni Homecoming. The following alumni were selected for the award:

Augusto L. De Leon	Director, Globalstride; Executive Director, Gravitas Prime, Inc.; Consultant, Hambrecht & Quist Philippines, Inc.
Nestor A. Espenilla, Jr.	Deputy Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Dominador T. Gregorio III	Partner & Co-Head, Financial Advisory Services Group, Deloitte, Kazakhstan
Henry Joseph M. Herrera	President & Director, Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc., Sun Life Asset Management Company, Sun Life Financial Plans, Inc.
Robert F. Kuan	Chairman of the Board of Trustees, St. Luke's Medical Center; Founder & President, Chowking Food Corporation
Oscar R. Sañez	President & Chief Executive Officer, Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPA/P); Former Managing Director/Country Manager – P&G Australia/NZ
Ramon Y. Sy	Director, President & CEO, United Coconut Planters Bank

The College also invites its alumni to attend the 2nd UPCBA Alumni Seminar Workshop. This year's topic is "*Investing in Mutual Funds: Risks and Returns*" which will include lectures on understanding different types of mutual funds, monitoring fund performance and understanding risks and returns on investment. Seminar will be held at the UP College of Business Administration building from 10:00AM to 11:30AM, Sunday, December 2, 2007.

Registration for the Alumni Homecoming starts at 9:30 am (Fee is P600.00, inclusive of lunch).
For further information: please call Zike at 929-7991 or email us at erlinda.echanis@up.edu.ph

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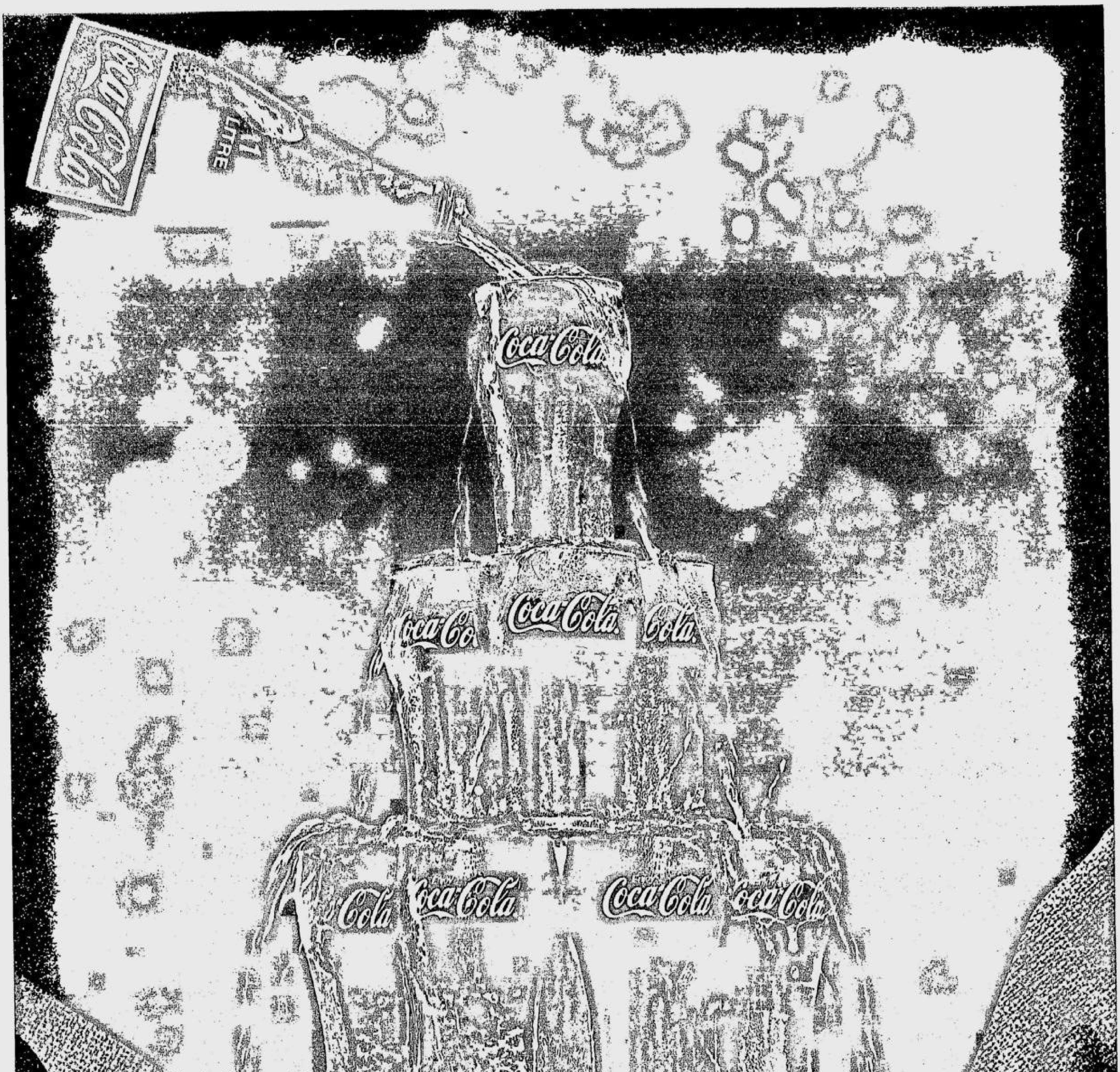
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Saguisag, driver may be in regular rooms next week

By Julie M. Aurelio

FORMER SEN. RENE SAguisag and his driver, Philip Calvario, will be transferred to regular rooms at the Makati Medical Center (MMC) next week if their conditions continue to improve, their doctors said.

In a medical bulletin issued yesterday morning, Dr. Eric Nubla of the patients' relations office of the MMC said Saguisag's health "continues to improve steadily and test results confirmed this."

"If this trend continues, we plan to move both Saguisag and Calvario to regular rooms early next week," Nubla said.

But before the two patients can be transferred, the remaining tubes and ventilators helping them breathe would have to be removed.

Nubla said Saguisag still had a tube attached to his chest, while Calvario was breathing with the help of a ventilator, which hinders him from speaking.

Doctors took Saguisag off his respirator Friday morning, but the chest tube remained to drain fluids.

If the tube is removed within two to three days, doctors hope the healing of the lawyer's seven fractured ribs would hasten.

"The treatment would then focus on his contusions and his broken ribs," Nubla said.

Nubla earlier said it would take at least four to six weeks for the fractured ribs to heal.

He noted that the lawyer remained conscious and responsive to questions.

But the doctor would not give a "target date" for Saguisag's discharge, saying "it's difficult to tell."

As for Calvario, doctors were still waiting for his neurological status to stabilize.

"We will wait for the improvement of his neurological status. He is not fully conscious but opens his eyes from time to time," Nubla said.

The driver is responsive at times but cannot communicate through notes yet.

The two were injured in an early morning road accident last week, which claimed the life of Saguisag's wife, ex-Social Welfare Secretary Dulce Saguisag, and also injured dance instructor Rea Imelda Obong.

Dulce was laid to rest on Friday at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City. Her husband of more than 30 years was not allowed by doctors to attend the funeral.

"We are hopeful that his health will continuously improve from here on," Nubla said yesterday.

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PARTIAL REPORT *(As of Nov. 13, 2007)*

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		No.	%	
I	475,332	215,549	45	259,783
II	311,454	175,475	56	135,979
III	933,748	451,457	48	482,291
IV-A	1,087,398	427,611	39	659,787
IV-B	272,269	129,500	48	142,769
V	525,749	210,754	40	314,995
VI	697,096	427,725	61	269,371
VII	645,431	310,624	48	334,807
VIII	408,233	210,580	52	197,653
IX	320,249	170,463	53	149,786
X	398,551	174,765	44	223,786
XI	405,044	257,073	63	147,971
XII	372,245	241,260	65	130,985
ARMM	323,759	130,135	40	193,624
CARAGA	234,819	98,145	42	136,674
CAR	155,259	83,255	54	72,004
NCR	1,082,231	767,506	71	314,725
PHILS	8,648,864	4,481,877	52	4,166,987

IPAALAM SA PINAKAMALAPIT NA HEALTH CENTER O BARANGAY KUNG HINDI PA NABABAKUNAHAN ANG INYONG MGA ANAK NA MAY EDAD 9 NA BUWAN HANGGANG APAT NA TAON LABAN SA TIGDAS!

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New nuncio hails RP as 'great believer in God'

By Michael Lim Ubac

HAILING THE PHILIPPINES AS "A great believer in God," the new papal nuncio, Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams, vowed to fulfill his new mission in this predominantly Catholic country "with love and dedication" when he formally presented his credentials to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday.

An apostolic nuncio or papal legate is the representative or ambassador of the Holy See to the bishops of the Episcopal Conference and particular churches. His principal task is to strengthen the bonds of unity between the Pope, the head of states and the bishops.

Adams, an American, is the 15th in the line of apostolic delegates and apostolic nuncios to the Philippines.

In reply, President Arroyo welcomed the 63-year-old Adams to the Philippines and expressed the hope that he would further strengthen pontifical and diplomatic relations between the Vatican and the country.

Adams was accompanied by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Undersecretary of the Office of the Religious Affairs Fatima Valdes, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines president and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, Rev. Msgr. Wojsiech Zaluski, Rev. Msgr Giorgio Chezza and Rev. Msgr. Stefano Mazzoti.

Adams arrived in the country on Nov. 1 after he was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as the replacement of Archbishop Fernando Filoni who was appointed Substitute of the Vatican Secretariat of State in June.

He was born in Philadelphia on Aug. 24, 1944, and was ordained a priest in May 1970.

Adams was apostolic nuncio to Bangladesh in 1996, and Archbishop of Scala, before becoming papal nuncio to Zimbabwe in August 2002.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, November 18, 2007
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Malachi 3:19-20

The day of the Lord.

The day already comes, flaming as a furnace.

On that day all the proud and evildoers
will be burned like straw in the fire.

They will be left without branches or roots.

On the other hand the sun of justice
will shine upon you who respect my Name
and bring health in its rays.

You will come out leaping like fattened calves.

2nd Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Earn your food.

You know how you ought to follow our example: we worked while we were with you. Day and night we labored and toiled so as not to be a burden to any of you. We had the right to act otherwise, but we wanted to give you an example.

Besides, while we were with you, we said clearly: If anyone is not willing to work, neither should that one eat. However we heard that some among you live in idleness—busybodies, doing no work. In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord we command these people to work and earn their own living.

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

Endurance will save you.

While some people were talking about the Temple, remarking that it was adorned with fine stonework and rich gifts, Jesus said to them, "The days will come when there shall not be left one stone upon another of all that you now admire; all will be torn down." And they asked him, "Master, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

Jesus then said, "Take care not to be deceived, for many will come claiming my title and saying: 'I am he, the Messiah; the time is at hand.' Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and troubled times, don't be frightened; for all this must happen first, even though the end is not so soon."

And Jesus said, "Nations will fight each other and kingdom will oppose kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and plagues; in many places strange and terrifying signs from heaven will be seen. Before all this happens, people will lay their hands on you and persecute you; you will be delivered to the Jewish courts and put in prison, and for my sake you will be brought before kings and governors. This will be your opportunity to bear witness.

"So keep this in mind: do not worry in advance about what to answer, for I will give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

"You will be betrayed even by parents, and brothers, by relatives and friends, and some of you will be put to death. But even though you are hated by all for my name's sake, not a hair of your head will perish. Through perseverance you will possess your own selves."

Commentary

If we fear the name of the Lord more than we fear any nation or power; if we fear to dishonor God or disobey him, then the day is coming when we will see the sun of justice arise with its healing rays. But if we are proud and do evil then it will be our end. We are to live and imitate Jesus and those who followed him even unto death. (Some thought that the end was near and so they did not work—this does not refer to the poor, the sick, the ill, the infirm, the children, etc.) All the readings are about the endtimes—the end of this year, the end of Israel and the destruction of the temple, the end of any nation/power/empire's reign on the earth, and one day, the end of the world. Jesus is clear—do not get caught up in this endtime craziness. There are going to be earthquakes, plagues, famines, and war (there have been for 2,000 years and probably many more thousands of years). Before it happens those who believe in Jesus will be persecuted, put on trial with the rulers of the world, and killed. Most Christians are definitely not in this situation today—we are often the ones doing the killing and the manhandling of other countries and peoples. We are to live now with the Spirit's inspiration, without violence or acting like the nations of the world. For us, let us look to this year's end and whether or not we have anything to give to God today.

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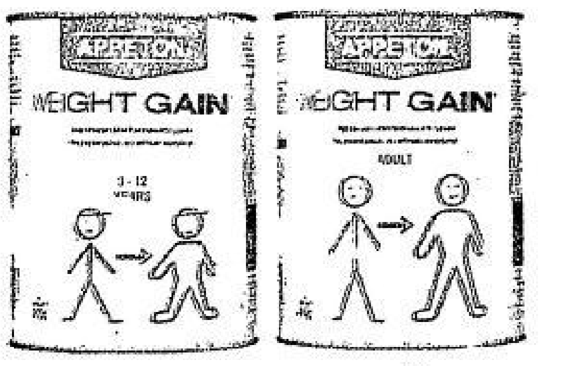

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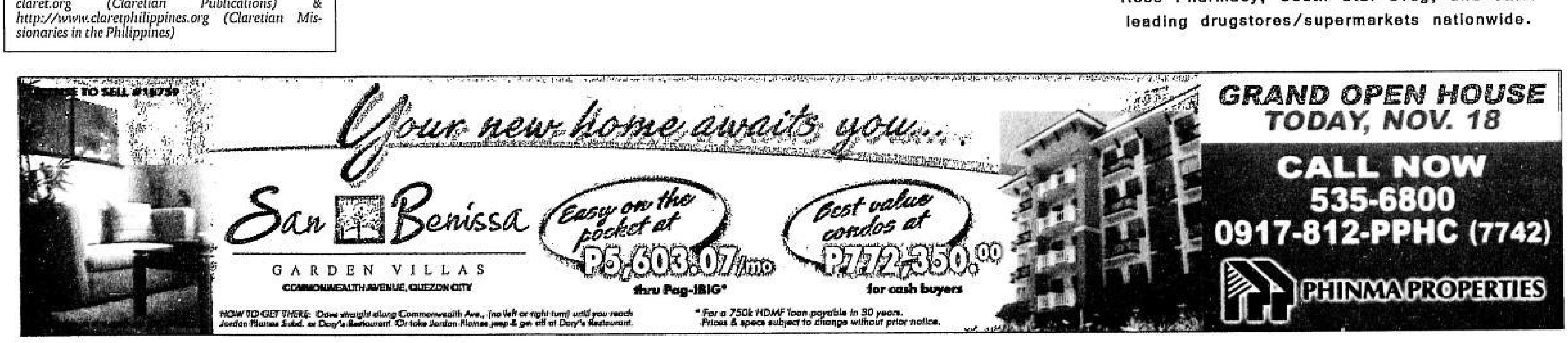
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Guyito's trip for reading's sake wins Quill award

From page A1

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING GUYITO: The International Association of Business Communicators awards the Philippine Quill to the INQUIRER's yearlong "Knowledge trip with Guyito" as one of the best corporate social responsibility projects. Receiving the award are Renato Reinoso, SVP for INQUIRER sales/marketing (3rd from left), and Connie Kalagayan (4th from left), head of INQUIRER's corporate affairs. Others in photo are Megi Garcia, also of corporate affairs, and Carmencita Arce and Jeric Sevilla, IABC directors. RUDY ESPERAS

communicators.

It was the only newspaper to win an award.

"We are very proud and honored to receive this recognition from Philippine Quill," said Connie Kalagayan, head of corporate affairs.

"It just reinforces the INQUIRER's dominance and leadership not only in journalistic excellence but also in corporate social responsibility programs," she said.

INQUIRER senior vice president Rene Reinoso, along with Kalagayan and corporate affairs associate Megi Garcia received the award in ceremonies held Wednesday night at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

Knowledge Trip was an offshoot of the paper's 20th anniversary celebration in 2005, marked by the unveiling of 20 life-size Guyito sculptures, sculpted by renowned artist Juan Sajid Imao and painted on by acclaimed Filipino artists.

Through the project, the sculptures were donated to the top 20 schools that won in the National Quiz Bee, from Tuguegarao City in the north to Zamboanga City in the south.

Like a fiesta

For the whole of 2006, each sculpture of Guyito, the INQUIRER's mascot and "ambassador of knowledge," was sent to 20 different schools where it would stay as a symbol of hope and inspiration for the student body, Kalagayan said.

Garcia, corporate affairs officer, said the response from the students was "overwhelming."

"Every school we visited, it was like a fiesta... We were treated like celebrities. It was so touching," she said.

She recalled one school in Baguio City, where students, clad in G-string despite the cold weather, greeted their arrival with a tribal dance.

In another public school in an impoverished barrio, the townspeople offered them delicacies, even though the INQUIRER representatives assured them that they would pay for the food, Garcia said.

The students, even those in the remotest provinces, displayed an astounding sense of awareness about news and current events, she added.

"We were surprised because we thought they wouldn't know anything about the paper but some of them knew the names in the INQUIRER staff box," Garcia said.

Inspiring e-mail

In an e-mail to the paper, one of the Quiz Bee winners, Glory Grace Pagliawan of the Puerto Princesa National High School said: "The Filipino youth [is] part of this growing global village. To stand out where national identities are constantly evolving, insightful opinions and dynamic ideas are the essential keys to [success].

"We thank the Philippine Daily Inquirer for giving us hope and inspiration, for inculcating the importance of reading. [When we read, we] become empowered with knowledge, making [us] more competitive in the global arena.

"When we read, and more so when we read between the lines, we become more critical, alert and perceptive, hungry to learn and eager to make a stand. Thank you for investing in us—the youth," Pagliawan said in her e-mail.

Sharing the expertise

Apart from the Guyito unveiling, the Knowledge Trip had an added bonus: A journalism lecture/workshop was given for the graduating high school class by INQUIRER editors, reporters and executives.

They discussed the importance of reading and shared their expertise on effective reading and writing, editing and lay-out.

The participants were given a handbook on journalism styles, methods, ethics and best practices, as well as Guyito stuffed toys and school supplies.

Kalagayan said the Knowledge Trip was part of the INQUIRER's advocacy for youth empowerment that emphasizes the role of media in nation building. It also sought to avert the declining trend in youth readership.

Successful project

Kalagayan said the project was deemed a success a year after its launch based on the following reasons:

- Fifteen out of the 20 public high schools that attended the INQUIRER journalism workshop topped the Department of Education's annual school press conference competition.
- There was a 50 percent increase in school tours of the INQUIRER office in Makati City.
- There was an increase in nationwide broadsheet readership from 46.10 percent to 54.30 percent.
- The INQUIRER topped the Media Index Teens survey as the broadsheet of choice with 4.8 percent share followed by Philippine Star with 3.5 percent and Manila Bulletin with 1.8 percent share.

The Nielsen survey was conducted during the first quarter of 2007 among Filipinos aged 13 to 19. This age bracket represents almost 15 percent or 13 million of the country's 88.7 million population.

Investing in the youth

Kalagayan said the whole project cost P500,000.

"It may look like a big amount but the paper invests in its advocacy and recognizes its vital role in the development of our youth," she said.

The Philippine Quill Awards is the new name of the International Association of Business Communicators Gold Quill, the most prestigious recognition for business communicators worldwide.

The INQUIRER has won previous local Gold Quills. In 2003, it received the Gold Quill award of excellence for its "INQUIRER's Youth Readership Program." In 2004, it won the Gold Quill award of excellence for the PDI corporate brochure and another Gold Quill award of excellence for the PDI newspaper drive.

In 2005, the paper won two more Gold Quill Awards of Merit for "Cannes Lions in Manila" and for Guyito.

Top dogs of 3G disasters search ...

From page A1

IN SEARCH OF VICTIMS, a dog goes into action during a field training exercise at a construction site at The Fort in Taguig City. RODEL ROTONI

for certification as "K9 disaster responders."

The fancy title also applies to their human partners, whose skills will likewise be upgraded and certified by the National Association for Search and Rescue based in the United States.

"Chairman is good at finding cadavers, while Rebelle and Piolo do well in searching for live victims," said Makati Councilor Junjun Binay, the president of the Philippine K9 Search and Rescue Foundation.

According to Binay, upgrading the dogs' skills and certifying them as K9 disaster responders is timely "in the light of the Glorietta 2 explosion."

"I think it's very helpful that we have opportunities like this for our canines," he said.

Binay has two "protective dogs," both of the Belgian Malinois breed, trained to guard him. He also owns 5-year-old Rebelle, a black Labrador named Rambo and a couple of other dogs.

French and focused

Rebelle also showed off her prowess during the training exercise in Taguig, weaving in between mounds of rock in search of the "victim."

Unlike other dogs, Rebelle does not waste time circling an area when looking for a victim, said Hector Reyes, board director of the foundation.

Said her handler: "Rebelle is more focused; she goes straight to the victim and barks really loud to alert us."

And while other dogs respond to English commands such as "sit," "down," and "search," Rebelle springs to action when addressed in French, obediently sitting, going down on all fours, and embarking on a search for a victim on cue.

It's called "obedience training"—or conditioning a canine to develop focus and learn how to follow orders—said American trainer Kristine Lesperance.

"They also undergo training in agility and navigation. It is better that dogs like them are trained as early as 10 weeks old," Lesperance said.

No robots

But not every dog can engage in search and rescue, even if it is a Boxer, a Malinois or a Labrador.

A good search-and-rescue dog has to be aware that it is doing its job in exchange for a reward—say its rubber hose toy or a ball.

"It has to be the dog that wants the toy," Lesperance said.

The dogs are, however, far from being robots. During breaks during the training, for example, their human partners played tag with them or gave them long back rubs.

"They have to be good not only to their handler, but to all kinds of people and [other] dogs. They have to like people," Lesperance said.

Search-and-rescue dogs, such as Chairman, Boxer and Rebelle, are probably the most friendly among trained dogs because they are eager to play and socialize with strangers.

While in training, search-and-rescue dogs are also required to undergo a "K9 good citizen" exam to find out if they are at ease with humans.

Only the handler

But a playful demeanor does not mean that a search-and-rescue dog will instantly obey a stranger.

"The dog will obey only the orders of his handler because that is what it is accustomed to do," Reyes pointed out.

But he warned of the danger of a dog being too attached to the handler: "The dog might hesitate to obey or search for a victim if it is not his handler commanding him. The dog might look over his back to see if his human friend is just behind him. There's hesitation."

Lesperance, who came with her husband Ken, praised the foundation members for having done a good job of training dogs in search and rescue.

"I think they've done amazing work. The Philippines should be proud of its search-and-rescue dogs—they are at par with canines from other countries," Lesperance said.

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Paradise city of China all out to overcome ...

From page A1

television services to beat the language barrier between its residents and foreigners.

"We are now implementing what we call 'tourism internationalization' so that those individual tourists would not get scared of getting lost in the city and would know where they can go, where to eat, what's interesting in our city without the assistance of tour guides," Li Hong, director of Hangzhou Tourism Commission, said during a conference on quality tourism here last week.

"[Conquering] the language barrier is really a big challenge for us," he said. "Unlike in Hong Kong, Singapore or India, where people naturally are born to speak in English, in mainland China most of our people speak only one language."

This explains why "it is very unique for the Chinese to go abroad because when they get lost it would be a problem. They can't even call a policeman for help."

Hangzhou is home to some 4 million people but only a low percentage of locals speaks English, Li said.

"We still need to educate more young people in a different language, particularly in English," he said.

"We will also have to organize massive training of people working in the service industry, especially in hotels and restaurants, in order to solve this language barrier."

Marco Polo marvelled

Located south of the Yangtze River Delta on China's east coast, Hangzhou was one of the seven ancient capitals of China, marveled at by Marco Polo, the 13th century Italian explorer, as "the most splendid and luxurious city in the world."

Going around the capital of Zhejiang province—which boasts of the scenic West Lake framed by lush mountains and skyscrapers—poses no problem to vacationists on tour packages as they are accompanied by English-speaking guides.

It is the tourists who travel on their own who may encounter some problems, Li told the INQUIRER.

To spare individual tourists the trouble of using sign language to elicit information from local people and then ending up getting lost as a result of faulty translation, the local government is rolling out its taxi information system, Li said.

Under the system, a taxi driver connects his non-Chinese speaking passenger to a call center via a mobile phone where volunteers who speak English, Japanese, Korean or French are on hand to make the translation.

What calling cards can do

"If a passenger needs any help, he or she would just pass a calling card to the taxi driver and that driver would dial the call center to avail of the services of a volunteer," Li said.

In other parts of China, where such system has not been introduced yet, resourceful Chinese drivers literally go the extra mile to communicate with their foreign passengers.

They stop over at high-end hotels and look for bilingual bell boys and security guards who can do the translation for them, the INQUIRER learned during the five-day conference.

Digital television

To make their foreign guests feel more at home, the Hangzhou government has also implemented digital television services in restaurants and hotels that provide tourists with information on the local weather, the traffic situation and flight schedules, as well as emergency instructions in four languages—aside from international TV programs.

Li said local TV companies had tailor-made the digital menu for foreign guests installed in over 156 hotels in the entire Zhejiang Province.

"Through the service, tourists have the chance to find what they need in Hangzhou, where to find the tea houses or hospitals in the city, how to make phone calls or how to find policemen," Li said.

Feeling at home

Li said such system was intended to make tourists staying in hotels feel "more at home and safer because information (is) available."

New evidence could lead to quick solution of Dalaig slay–Comelec

By Beverly T. Natividad

THE POLICE HAVE STUMBLED ON SOME important evidence that could lead to the solution of the murder of Commission on Elections law department chief Alioden Dalaig, a Comelec official said.

Comelec Commissioner Florentino Tuason, the commissioner in charge of the law department, said Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling Jr., head of the Manila Police District homicide division, told him in a recent meeting that the police had "unearthed very positive developments" towards the resolution of the case.

Tuason, however, declined to reveal what the "very positive developments" were so as not to jeopardize the ongoing investigation.

Work-related

Asked whether the developments were work-related or involved one of the election cases that Dalaig was handling at the Comelec, Tuason would only say that by elimination, most of the evidence pointed to something work-related since Dalaig's personal belongings at the crime scene were left untouched by his assailant. "We can't say whether it is work-related or not but all his personal belongings were intact when he was found so that leaves us with work-related [reasons]," said Tuason.

Tuason said the poll body was hopeful the police would solve the case soon although the investigation just started and would still go through a long process.

The Comelec recently provided the National Bureau of Investigation with the list of election cases personally handled by Dalaig.

Tightened security

The NBI is conducting its own parallel investigation of the poll official's killing.

The Comelec law department, which was headed by Dalaig, handles the preliminary investigation of all election-related offenses described under the Omnibus Election Code such as cases of illegal propaganda, illegal posting of campaign materials and vote-buying.

The commission also taps its law department to promulgate legal opinions on issues faced by the poll body.

Following Dalaig's murder by an unknown assassin in Ermita, Manila on Nov. 10, the Comelec has tightened security at its office in Manila and has also requested for 15 additional security personnel from the Philippine National Police for other election officers.

Organic force

At present, the Comelec's organic security force is comprised of 97 officers. Another 34 PNP-Police Security Protection Office personnel are detailed to the poll body.

The Comelec is trying to determine who among its employees also had received threats to their lives, and if they need security details.

Filipino film wins award in Brussels

AN ENTRY FROM the Philippines has been adjudged Best Documentary Film in the 34th Brussels International Independent Film Festival held recently in that city.

In her report to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippine Ambassador to Belgium Cristina Ortega said "Neo-Lounge," a film directed by Joanna Vasquez-Arong won the judges' nod in the festival held Nov. 11 at the Centre Culturel Jacques Franck.

The film portrays the effects of the SARS outbreak on people's lives.

Vasquez-Arong has written several documentaries on China and is working with a nongovernment organization while pursuing her career as a filmmaker.

Another Filipino film titled "Foster Child" was also featured in the festival.

It was not included in the competition, however, since its director, Brillante Mendoza, was a member of the filmfest's international jury.

Twelve other entries from India, Turkey, Thailand, Canada, Indonesia, Cambodia and Morocco competed in the festival.

The Brussels International Independent Film Festival, which was started in 1974, provides international exposure for Filipino artists and filmmakers. Actress Gina Pareño bagged the Best Actress award for the film "Kubrador" last year.

Cynthia D. Balana

Mindanao artist back by demand

DUE TO POPULAR demand, an exhibit of some 100 drawings and paintings by a Mindanao artist shown last month will have another 4-day run at the University of the Philippines Faculty Center (UPFC) in Quezon City.

The exhibit of the works of Parts Bagani, dubbed "Sining Luwal ng Kanayunan" and depicting the countryside in resistance, will open with a brief program at the UPFC's Galleria 2 at 10 a.m. on Nov. 26.

It will serve as a fund-raising project for the benefit of cancer-stricken UP professor Monico Atienza.

A forum on art and freedom of expression is scheduled at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 29 at UPFC's Recto Hall. Popular artists have been invited to perform.

Bagani, known as an "artist of the people's struggle," lives and works in the countryside where he was born.

In Mindanao, he experienced the turmoil of conflicting forces, and painted a terrain of warfare. His art abounds with scenes of resistance, as well as of warriors in repose, of schools in open bamboo structures in the forest, and of people singing songs of victory.

The exhibit is sponsored by the First Quarter Storm Movement, Tag-ani Performing Arts Society, Asosasyon ng mga Skolar, Kritiko at Artista ng Sining at Kultura (Asterisk), Alay Sining, Kabataang Artista para sa Tunay na Kalayaan (Karatula) and Congress of Teachers for Nationalism and Democracy.

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The Australian Embassy will be open for pre-poll voting during the hours of 8.30am-4.30pm, Monday-Friday from 12-23 November and Election Saturday, 24 November 2007 from 8.30am-4.30pm. The Embassy is located at 23rd Floor of the RCBC Plaza, Tower 2, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. We encourage you to make use of the pre-polling times to avoid queues on Saturday. For further updates, please visit the Australian Embassy Manila website at http://www.philippines.embassy.gov.au/
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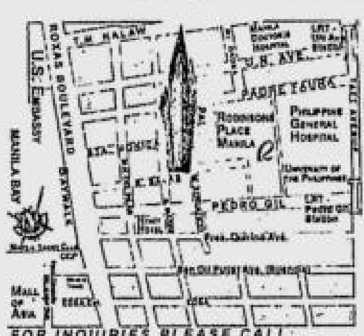

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COD is no more, but show goes on

From page A1

sure that all of the elements are neatly in place.

Original staff

According to Rosario, a number of these workers are the children and family members of the original staff that helped him mount the first show back in 1957 when the family-run Manila COD was still on Avenida Rizal (Rizal Avenue) in downtown Manila.

Manila COD (for cash on delivery) had already been operating for nine years when Rosario, then 24 years old, thought of putting up an animated window display to get people to take notice of the wares on offer inside the 230-square-meter store.

"We could not afford expensive radio advertisements so we had to come up with something else to attract customers during our sale that November," said Rosario, who being the eldest of six children, was president of the company.

Instant hit

That something else was a belly dancer made of plaster of Paris, which had been fitted with an electric fan motor to make it move. It was an instant hit.

"The distance from the front of the store to my desk was just 20 meters but it took me 10 minutes to get through all the people that came into the store," Rosario recalled.

The success of the animated display encouraged Rosario to put up another one for Christmas, this time featuring a moving Santa Claus laden with gifts.

That first Christmas show was mounted on a stage just eight meters long, the frontage of the Avenida store. It would become bigger and bigger through the years.

When the Avenida location threatened to be overwhelmed by bars and restaurants, Manila COD transferred to the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City, in 1966.

"We were the first department store to set up in the Araneta Center. At the time, only the coliseum was there. The other department stores were on Aurora Boulevard, like Assandas, which was for the middle class like us, and Aguinaldo's, which was for the A crowd," said Rosario.

The move to the new 1,500-square-meter location was nerve-wracking. Rosario said he never enjoyed a good night's sleep in the three years that the store was being put up for fear that it would not do well.

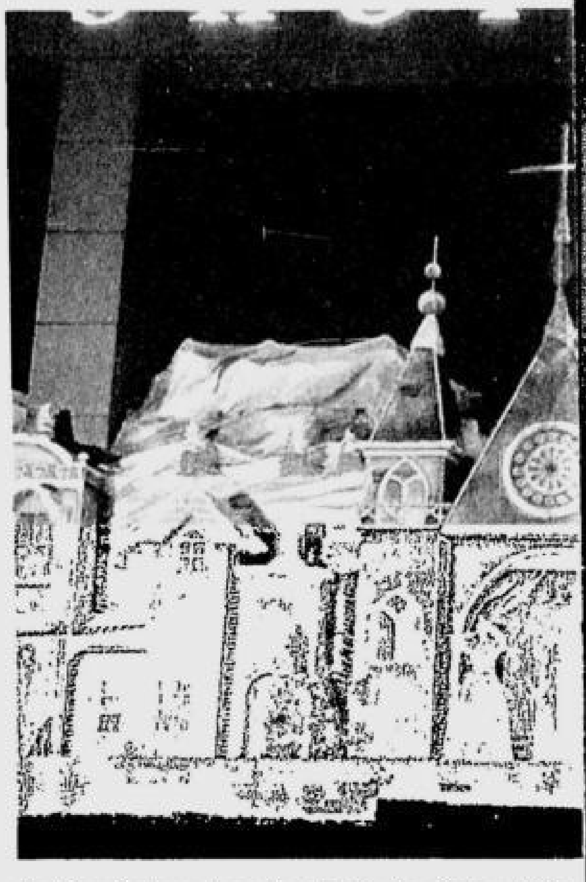
To the rescue

The Christmas show came to the rescue yet again.

"I gave myself six years for us to recover our investment. But thank God we immediately earned on our first year," he said.

That first Christmas show at Araneta Center had a lot to do with Manila COD's success. And what a show it was.

The theme was "Cinderella" and Rosario got popular movie star Liberty Ilagan to open the show. She arrived in a helicopter that landed on the site where the Rustan's department store would eventually rise. (Rustan's has since moved to the Gateway shopping mall.)



THE ORTIGAS FAMILY invited the COD owner Alex Rosario after his department store closed to continue his Christmas display at the Greenhills Shopping Center, and it has been a productive partnership for the past five years. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

The Christmas display and show became so popular, groups of families would patiently wait outside the Manila COD to watch the show, the mechanical display portion of which lasted from 10 to 15 minutes. Some would even come from the provinces just to watch the biggest Christmas show in town, and the best part about it was that it was free.

Themes varied from year to year but there would be repeats of some of the more popular ones because of public demand. These were the "Barrio Fiesta" and "Santa Claus" shows and the all-time favorite and most often repeated, the "Nativity" Christmas show.

Made by hand

Sometimes the theme was also influenced by the times, like the show featuring Muslims and Christians at a time when there were calls for friendship between people of different faiths. When the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972, the Christmas show that year incorporated a short history of the Philippines.

Rosario said he had the most difficult time mounting the "Christmas Galactica" show of 1969 to celebrate the moon landing that year. The stage had to accommodate a space module and needed a huge backdrop to simulate outer space.

Mounting the displays is not easy as each part of the mannequins has to be made by hand. About 50 workers are needed to make the costumes, paint the mannequins and install the motors. Then there are the plumbers, electricians, carpenters and sound experts.

According to Rosario, only one member from the original crew is still alive, Berting Aguirre, who applies the makeup on the mannequins. But the others live on through their children and relatives who continue to involve themselves in the show.

Rosario said that one reason the people who were involved in putting up the display loyally stuck together was their sense of pride in having created something of beauty and wonder.

"We all felt that we were involved in some-

For Pinoy drive

From page A1

traffic lights are merely "a suggestion."

Dr. Jose Regin Regidor, director of the UP National Center for Transportation Studies, blames it on impatience. Combined with the "Filipino time" attitude of doing things at the last minute, this forces drivers—of both public and private vehicles—to resort to overly aggressive driving.

Lack of education and training could be another factor, he adds. "There's this misconception that only public transport drivers are at fault. But in reality, the public utility and truck drivers are more predictable in their behavior [compared] to many private drivers who are *barumbado* (reckless)."

Regidor adds that road bullies exist because other drivers allow themselves to be intimidated. "If you see a luxury car or an SUV tailgating you, you would most probably give way. And that car wouldn't even have to flash his headlights."

Surprisingly, these bully drivers are usually educated and accomplished individuals. "But once they get behind the wheel, their personality changes, they have an alter ego. I agree, some people imagine themselves as F1 drivers [on public streets]," Regidor says.

He adds that aggressive driving also applies to motorcyclists who express their "impatience" by weaving in and out of lanes.

Traffic rules

Generally speaking, Filipinos find it difficult to follow traffic rules.

Conforming to traffic rules is determined by the visibility of enforcers and the "mood" of other motorists at any particular time.

Dr. Edgardo Juan L. Tolentino, president of the Group for Addiction Psychiatry of the Philippines, says when there are no law enforcers at an intersection, drivers interpret a yellow traffic light as a signal to "hurry up," hence they go faster.

"But if there's a Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) traffic enforcer or policeman at the intersection, when drivers see a yellow light, they slow down or stop," he says.

Tolentino adds that in more developed countries, drivers inherently follow traffic rules, whether or not traffic officers are present.

Accident contributory factor

Dr. Felicitas Soriano, Philippine Psychiatry Association president, says Filipinos have a "de-

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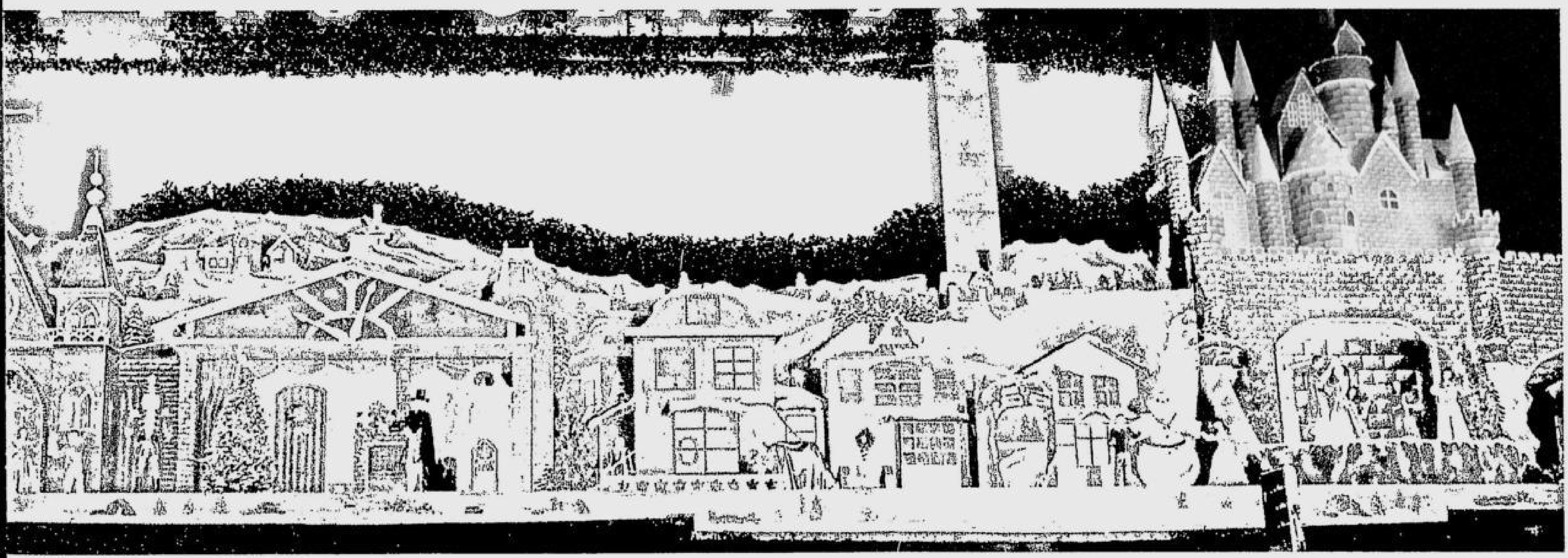


ALEX ROSARIO, now 83, who first conceptualized the Christmas display as a marketing gimmick is still at it 50 years later. His staff and crew are children, grandchildren and relatives of the original group that mounted the first show at the COD store on Avenida Rizal. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

thing bigger than ourselves. It is no longer just a show, it has become our mission," he said.

Ortigas steps in

The Christmas show almost came to a halt in 2002 when Rosario decided to close down Manila COD because business was no longer as good. Fortunately, the Ortigas family stepped in and invited Rosario to move the show to its third home, the Greenhills Shopping Center. The partnership is now on its fifth year.

Rosario continues to take charge of conceptualizing the Christmas show and he has no intention of stopping anytime soon.

"For us old people, having something to do is very relaxing. I still like going to the shop to talk to our people and just keep busy. I don't have any problems when I am there," said Rosario, who is a healthy octogenarian free of any ailments.

One of his nine children, Rey, helps him with the show, ensuring that a beloved Christmas tradition will live on for many years to come.

rs . . .

structive culture" when it comes to traffic rules and regulations.

She cites the value of *lamangan* or *isahan* (putting one over the other) as part of the Filipino driver's psyche. In this situation, traffic rules and regulations are thrown out the window.

Aurora Corpuz Mendoza, a psychologist who did a study on road safety last year, says "there is growing recognition that road user behavior is now the most important single accident contributory factor, with 85 percent of road accidents in the Philippines caused by driver error or violations."

Mendoza is with the Psychology department of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Risk factors

Her study investigated the behavior of 334 public jeepney and private drivers in different areas of Metro Manila. Three violations were most prevalent: Illegal counterflow, failure to give way while turning, and tailgating.

There were three risk factors: Behavior of other drivers, the presence or absence of traffic enforcers, and perceived road/vehicle conditions.

According to Mendoza's study, factors that influenced driver behavior included driver's age, gender, education, driver type, risk-taking personality, perceived risks of traffic violations, acceptance of risk for traffic violations, the social environment that includes the drivers and traffic enforcers, the vehicle, and the physical environment or the road, and weather conditions.

Results showed that drivers more likely to commit traffic violations were young, male, operating public transport and with low levels of education.

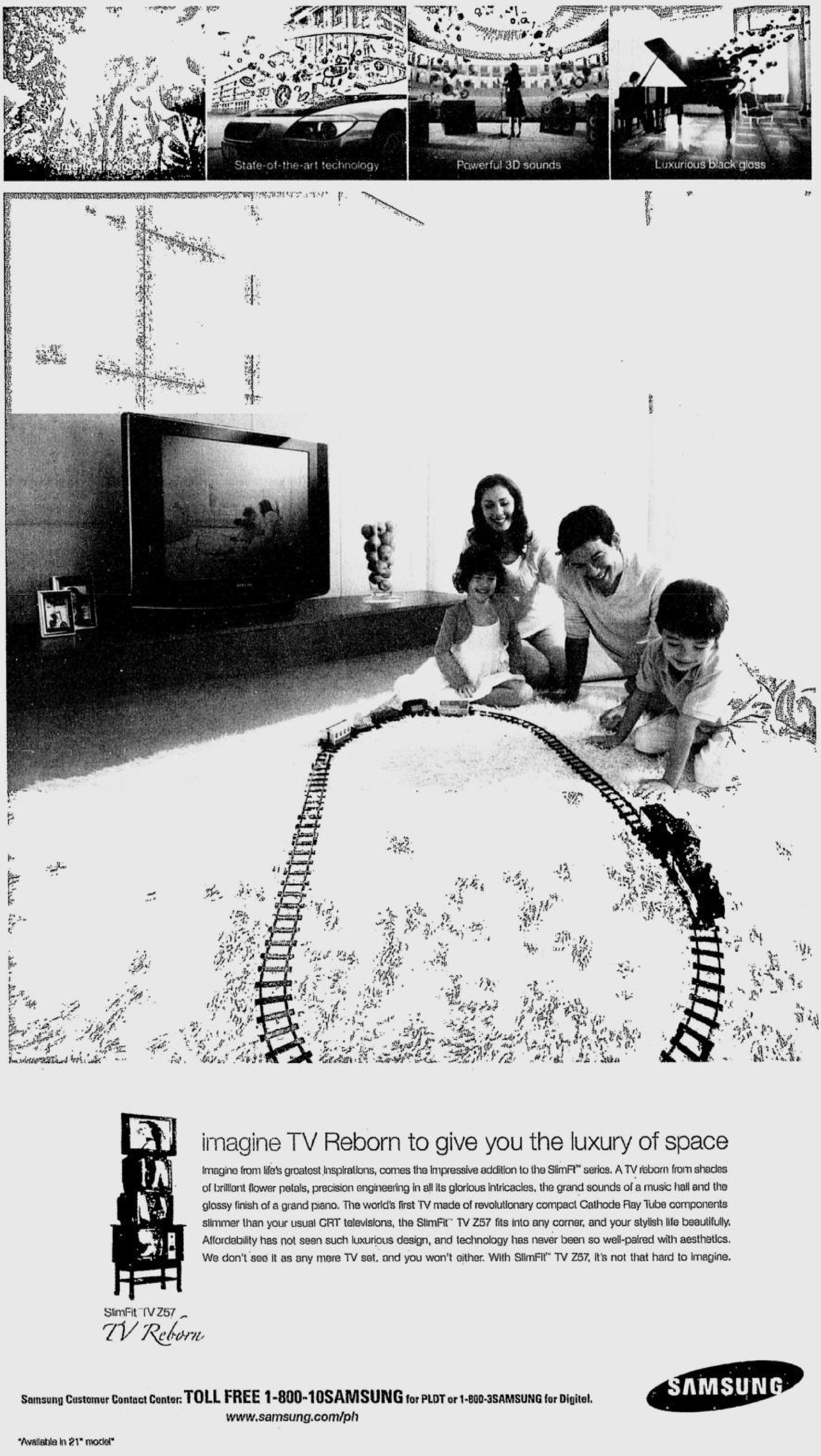
Social environment

Data also showed that drivers were more likely to commit traffic violations if they don't see any traffic enforcer.

Mendoza says the behavior of other people present in a traffic environment provides a social construct of reality that can reduce personal uncertainty on what behavior is safe and what is risky.

The study also showed that drivers without college degrees had significantly stronger intentions to commit traffic violations compared to college graduates.

Mendoza says that this finding is "noteworthy because it points to the importance of a college education, in the local setting, to driver decisions to violate rules."



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OPINION

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No breather

UNLIKE THE GLORIETTA BLAST, WHICH REMAINS stuck in a swamp of doubt the government itself helped create, the bombing of the House of Representatives seems headed for a more satisfying conclusion. The difference between the two blasts is that the bombing of the House was handled, from the start, with more circumspection and even discipline, by the authorities.

EDITORIAL

(The bombast and hyperbole of congressmen can be discounted for what they were—political noise. After all, they are not in charge of the police. The Speaker's thundering that it was the work of "terrorists" or "anarchists" carried fewer political implications than the national [in]security adviser's panic-fomenting public statements in the wake of the Glorietta tragedy.)

So far, so good. Though we are troubled that the suspects were later killed in a firefight, as if a way couldn't be found by the police to apprehend them. But that is a question that can be addressed later.

What must be addressed immediately is something the police authorities themselves have said: that the case can't be considered closed, because although they believe they have found the perpetrators, they still have to find the mastermind.

The three main questions of an investigation—finding out who has the means, motive and opportunity to commit, or cause the commission, of a crime—remain to be comprehensively answered.

We all see where the police are headed, and that is in the direction of former Rep. Gerry Salapuddin. To his credit, the former Basilan congressman and nemesis of the slain Rep. Wahab Akbar says he wants a chance to defend himself: he fears, he says—and rightly so—a vendetta if he remains a suspect much longer.

And here is where the long arm of the law might prove to be a useless stump. How will the police handle Salapuddin, considering the political factors coming into play? In the first place, the police will have an instinctive tendency to treat him with kid gloves; secondly, considering that Salapuddin is a political figure and not a member of an outlaw group, the police might be inclined to take its cues—as to how to behave—from Malacañang; thirdly, if such cues are absent (since even if asked, Malacañang will have to do its own figuring out on what it should do), the natural tendency of any bureaucrat is to tread water while waiting for orders from higher-up.

In which case, instead of keeping up its momentum, the investigation might start flagging, thus inevitably ending up in failure. The result would be to give "suppressed" theories a new lease on life or an opportunity to gain a life of their own. So nothing would be resolved, and worse, things might just get more complicated.

The PNP, therefore, has to work double time on finding the answer to the question of who is the mastermind of the Batasan bombing. It cannot take the risk of prematurely condemning Salapuddin in the court of public opinion, but it can neither take too long to identify the mastermind nor prove indecisive because of fears over the implications of the circumstantial evidence it has already released to the public. Either its dragnet must tighten, or the PNP itself must start explaining why, as an institution, it may want to consider other suspects.

The worst case scenario would be for the PNP to start fumbling, and for the suspected mastermind to use the situation as a pretext for adopting the "time-honored" tactic of beleaguered officials—that is, to do a vanishing act, or run off to the mountains—thus leaving their supporters leaderless and dangerous, or mobilizing them in a rebellion meant to set the stage for deal-making and winning concessions from the government.

Plastic bag tax

COULD THERE BE A MORE POTENT SYMBOL OF OUR THROW-away society than a plastic bag, snagged and flapping on a suburban hedge? Even if a plastic bag is disposed of properly, it is likely to end up in a landfill site, where it will decompose for centuries, emitting harmful carbon dioxide.

FOREIGN COMMENT

The good news is, there is a simple and proven solution to this environmental blight. Ireland imposed a modest plastic bag tax in 2002, which has reduced the use of plastic bags by 90 percent. The bad news is, despite the fact that plastic bag pollution is every bit as bad as it used to be across the Irish Sea, our own government refuses to follow Dublin's example.

It is time that the government had the courage of its supposedly green convictions and implemented a nationwide levy.

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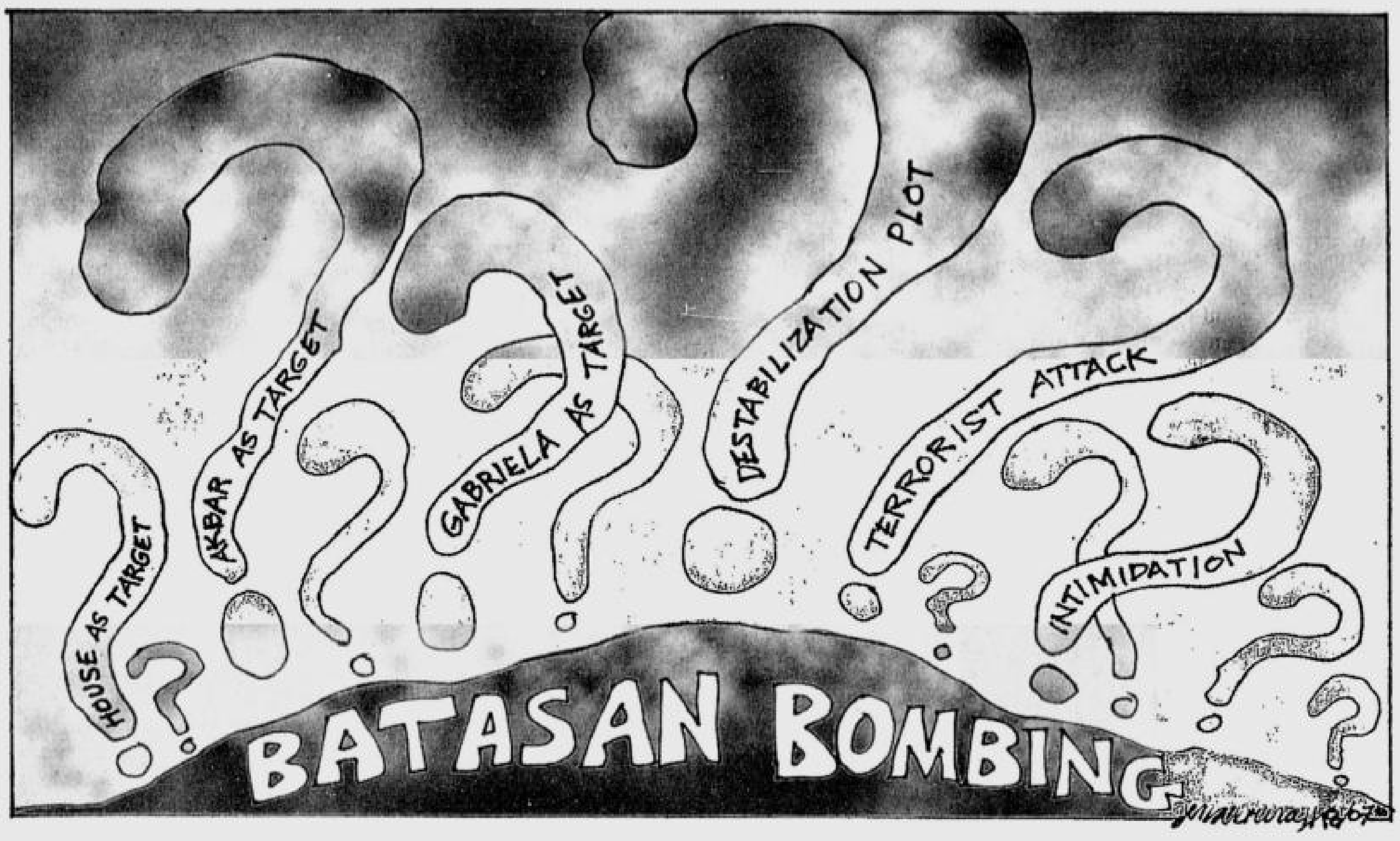


The humility of Lincoln

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

MY SON CLARO BROUGHT ME AN EXCELLENT book that I enjoyed immensely for the thick store of interesting information it gave about Abraham Lincoln, my favorite subject. It was written by Pulitzer Prize winner Doris Kearns Goodwin, distinguished biographer also of Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon Johnson.

Her latest work, which came out in 2005, traces the life of Lincoln from his birth in a log cabin in the backwoods of Kentucky until his death in a boarding house near the Ford Theater in Washington where he was fatally shot. It is titled "Team of Rivals" because, while rich in details and anecdotes about other aspects of his climb from obscurity to immortality, it focuses on his relationship with the men he defeated at the Republican Party convention in Chicago in 1860 and later worked with him as members of his Cabinet.

Lincoln was earlier predicted and dismissed as an "also ran" candidate in that convention but surprised the nation when he trounced his better known and apparently more qualified aspirants for the opportunity to run as the official candidate of the Republican Party for President of the United States. His more prestigious opponents were William H. Seward, Salmon P. Chase, and Edward Bates, all outstanding lawyers and recognized leaders in their common party.

On the day of the convention, Lincoln won the third balloting and his party's nomination to the tumultuous applause of the assemblage. This prompted a leading newspaper to comment sardonically: "The conduct of the republican party in this nomination is a remarkable indication of small intellect, growing smaller. They pass over . . . statesmen and able men and they take up a fourth rate lecturer, who cannot speak good grammar."

Lincoln was to prove his critics wrong. He began with his lyrical appeal to the South in his First Inaugural Address, where he said:

"I am loath to close. We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Nation, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

But it was in the choice of his Cabinet that Lincoln showed his extraordinary humility. While a lesser man would have ignored his former if better rivals if only to emphasize his superiority over them, he did exactly the opposite. He invited—in fact requested—Seward, Chase, and Bates to join his official family in coping with the Civil War.

They accepted, perhaps patronizingly thinking that Lincoln needed to be guided and led. But again they were mistaken. They soon discovered the intelligence and, yes, erudition of the man who was their leader and eventually became their friend. He presided at the meetings of the Cabinet but did not dictate to them, preferring instead to reach reasoned consensus. It was only on those few occasions when he could not agree with them that he chose instead, as was his right, to say the last word.

The affable Abe was especially close to Secretary of State Seward who reciprocated his goodwill although he had the most reason to resent him for besting him, as the front-runner in the Chicago convention, that prevented him from winning the office now held by Lincoln. Abandoning his own presidential ambition, he offered his best assistance and advice to the man he now sincerely admired and respected. Lincoln sought his opinion on important state matters, humbly asked him to go over draft presidential addresses and accepted many of his suggested changes.

Of a different mold was Chase, who never lost hope of becoming Lincoln's successor. Although he was a member of the Cabinet, he openly criticized the President to strengthen his own bid for the elusive White House. He habitually threatened to quit for the slightest complaint until, out of exasperation, Lincoln finally accepted his resignation. Nevertheless, recalling his able services as Secretary of the Treasury, Lincoln later appointed him Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, where he continued to seek the presidency, but vainly too.

Bates was completely helpful to Lincoln, especially in supporting the Emancipation Proclamation. As Attorney General, he was quick with his expert legal defense of the wartime President's controversial emergency decrees. He was an inoffensive Cabinet member who received much public acclaim for his exemplary life and career.

Secretary of War Edwin Stanton was a brilliant lawyer whose early disdain for the awkward practitioner from Springfield changed to esteem when he joined Lincoln's Cabinet. It was he who tearfully said upon the great man's death: "Now he belongs to the ages."

At a desperate time when the Union was imperiled by the fratricidal war, Abraham Lincoln had the humility to choose a team of rivals who, forgetting their past disappointments, unselfishly followed him in the stupendous task of preserving as one undivided country the United States of America. Many regard that feat as his most enduring memory and monument.

Which side?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

DID YOU NOTICE THAT IN MOST WEDDING pictures, men are on the left side, while women are on the right? Someone pointed out that this could be interpreted as a sign, because in life's balance sheet, assets are on the right side, and liabilities are on the left.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 21,5-19), Jesus talks about the signs of "end-times": wars, earthquakes, plagues, famines, insurrections. Jesus also warns about the appearance of false prophets who will come in His name. Finally, Jesus warns us about persecution of His followers. Through it all, Jesus tells us: Do not be afraid, do not be deceived, and do not give up.

* * *

Fear is one of the greatest instruments of the evil one and his agents. How often have people been silenced because of fear? How often has the work of God been aborted because of fear, real or imagined? The Lord tells us today: Courage! What sort of fears haunt and affect us? Are we paralyzed by our fears?

* * *

Another instrument used by the evil one and his trusted agents in this world is untruthfulness. And so we have all sorts of liars all around us. Don't you get the feeling that our country is fast becoming the lying capital of the world? The biggest problem we have now is "Truth Decay," and what our leaders are saying is: "Don't talk about it. Let's move on." No. We must talk about it, because without the truth, there can be no real moving on.

* * *

We need to listen to God in these trying times. A text message I received reads: "When you say, 'it's impossible,' God says, 'All things are possible.' (Lk. 18, 27) When you say, 'I am tired,' God says, 'I will give you rest.' (Mt. 11, 28) When you say, 'Nobody loves me,' God says, 'I love you.' (John 3,16) When you say, 'I can't do it,' God says, 'I can do all things.' (Phil. 4, 13) When you say, 'I feel all alone,' God says, 'I will never leave nor forsake you.' (Heb. 13, 5) When you say, 'I'm afraid,' God says, 'I have not given you a spirit of fear.' (2 Tim. 1, 7)"

* * *

We need to be courageous when we encounter all sorts of lies and intimidation. There will be problems, there will be pain, and even persecutions. Through it all, we must be joyful and strong. May our faith strengthen us and enable us to withstand all the pressures and attacks of the evil one and his trusted agents. Let us once more listen to Jesus' words in today's Gospel: "You will be hated by all because of My name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed; by your perseverance you will secure your lives."

* * *

When will God take you and me? We often put the question: "Am I ready to face God?" Perhaps the question should be: "Is God ready to face me?" For those who think that they can go on sinning and can continue with their evil ways, they should realize that, perhaps, they are not yet being taken by the Lord because they are not yet acceptable in His sight. Or perhaps, they are still being given a chance by the Lord to mend their ways.

* * *

One other reason your and my personal end-times have not yet come is that, perhaps, you and I still have a mission in life. Mission not yet accomplished. Let us all be reminded today that we all have a mission to accomplish in life. Let us also remember that our mission in life is not just to become rich, comfortable, or powerful. Our mission is to do good in this life, to love God and spread His love, and to go to Heaven at the end of our earthly lives. This is the "big picture" that will help us persevere and that will encourage us to live righteously even when everything around us is infiltrated by the evil one.

* * *

Next Sunday, the last Sunday in the Liturgical year, is the feast of Christ the King. Where will you and I be when He separates the goats on His Left and the sheep on His right? Where will you and I be "when the saints go marching in"? The answer to these questions depends on how faithful and true we have been to Him, through it all, and how we have persevered in His grace.

* * *

Heaven, they say will be full of surprises. Let us all work out our salvation in fear and in trembling. And yet, let us be hopeful and joyful because it is by His grace that we will be saved. Instead of boxing out each other, why don't we reach out to one another and help one another get to heaven?

* * *

Inviting you to the 20th Eucharistic Congress at the Pink Sisters' Convent (71 Hemady St. corner 11th Street, New Manila, Quezon City) on Dec. 1, 2007, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The congress' theme: "A Reflection on the Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father: Sacramentum Caritatis." The speakers are Fr. Apolinario Ty, SSS, Fr. Lino Nicasio, SVD and Bishop Pablo David, DD, who will also preside over the Eucharistic Celebration. This event is sponsored by the Eucharistic Adorers' League. Lunch and snacks will be provided for.

* * *

Bantay Matanda will hold a forum on "How to Care for the Old Persons with Sensory Impairment" at Janssen Hall, Christ the King Seminary on Nov. 24, Saturday, from 8 a.m. till 12 noon. For more details, you can call 3732262.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me always to be on your side in this life and in the next life. Amen.

May Erap's pardon be revoked by GMA?

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

SOLICITOR GENERAL AGNES DEVANADERA was reported by media to have said that the "government may revoke its grant of pardon to former President Joseph Estrada if he makes good his threat to resist 'till death' the forfeiture of his assets worth P545 million," on the ground that "the forfeiture ... was a condition for his pardon."

Pardon not conditional. Relevantly, the short presidential order granting "executive clemency" merely said "The forfeitures imposed by the Sandiganbayan remain in force and in full, including all writs and processes issued by the Sandiganbayan in pursuance thereof, except for bank accounts he owned before his tenure as president."

I cannot see how this awkward sentence can be interpreted as a condition. It merely states that the pardon did not encompass the monetary prescriptions of the anti-graft court. A condition imposes a burden; hence, it must be phrased clearly so the "pardonee" would understand its import.

Of course, the Sandiganbayan may enforce, through its usual writs and processes, the "forfeitures" it ordered in its now final and executory judgment. But the non-satisfaction of the writs will not justify the pardon's revocation.

The remedy to nullify the pardon is a petition for certiorari in the Supreme Court, showing that President Macapagal-Arroyo gravely abused her discretion in extending clemency to Erap. This is rather difficult to do. Most constitutionalists grant the President immense leeway in issuing pardons. But enterprising lawyers can always try their luck in our activist Court. Pursuant to the Rules of Court, this petition may be filed within 60 days from "notice" of the presidential clemency.

GMA not yet immune from impeachment. With the dismissal for "lack of substance" of the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido, is GMA now immune from impeachment for one year? Under the Constitution, "(n)o impeachment proceeding shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year."

"Francisco vs House of Representatives" (Nov. 10, 2003) ruled that an impeachment **proceeding** is deemed to have been **initiated** on the day it is referred to the Committee on Justice of the House of Representatives. From that day, the one-year ban on new impeachment complaints shall be reckoned. However, there are some novel questions that still need to be ruled upon by the Supreme Court before GMA can be said to be totally inoculated.

First, was the referral to the Committee on Justice made by the Deputy Speaker, instead of the Speaker as provided by the House Rules, valid? If not, then the one-year ban has not begun. Second, was the precipitate dismissal of the supplemental complaint filed by lawyer Adel Tamano tenable? Wasn't the Tamano pleading intended to strengthen the "weak" Pulido complaint and to prevent a mockery of the one-year ban? Third, was the Committee's refusal to include GMA in the impeachment complaint filed against resigned Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos correct? A negative answer to any of these questions may reopen the impeachment proceeding against GMA.

Dislodging a Comelec commissioner. The "bulaga" appointment of former Judge Moslemen T. Macarambon as a member of the Commission on Elections has generated a tidal wave of protests. Several non-government organizations have attacked his unimpressive credentials and the opaqueness that shrouded his appointment.

Critics have raked up two instances, in 1999 and in 2005, in which the Supreme Court yanked out cases from his sala "to avoid a miscarriage of justice." In "TransAsia Shipping vs Macarambon," (Nov. 24, 1999), the son of Macarambon sued TransAsia in his father's sala in Lanao del Sur, for its alleged failure to accommodate the judge in the ambassador suite of the petitioner's vessel.

Narrated the Supreme Court, "Brandishing his calling card to petitioner's employee, Macarambon said: 'You know I am a judge. You should have accommodated me first.'" Despite a Resolution of the high court moving the case to the Regional Trial Court of Cagayan de Oro, Macarambon still decided it. So the Supreme Court "set aside" his decision and transferred the records to Cagayan de Oro.

Macarambon is lucky that TransAsia filed only a "petition for a change of venue," not an administrative charge for his violation of judicial ethics. Otherwise, he could have been held administratively liable and penalized accordingly. In any event, given the judge's murky track record, several electoral watchdogs have asked whether he can still be removed from office, even if he has already taken his oath and began to discharge his duties.

The answer is yes, if his **ad interim** appointment is either disapproved or bypassed by the Commission on Appointments and the President does not extend him a new appointment. But if GMA reappoints him despite the disapproval or bypass, then he will retain his job.

Diabetes awareness. Last Nov. 14, the United Nations observed World Diabetes Day. Back in 1983, I was diagnosed to have mild diabetes. Thanks to proper diet, regular exercise, a little medicine and a lot of prayers, the disease was controlled. In 1993, Dr. Augusto Litonjua, the famous endocrinologist, certified in writing that I was no longer a diabetic. Since then and up to now, I still see him at least once every three months. Even if I no longer take any diabetic medicine, my blood sugar has remained normal. Moral lesson: early detection can lead to full recovery.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Sex tempest in Quezon City

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN QUEZON CITY COUNCILOR JOSEPH "SEP" Juico agreed to be the main sponsor of an ordinance "Establishing a Quezon City Population and Reproductive Health Management Policy," little did he know that it would affect even his romantic life.

After weathering scathing criticism and name-calling from Catholic Church authorities and groups, Juico says he has become wary of even attending Mass in Quezon City. So intense has the campaign become that, he says half-seriously, he fears he may not even be allowed to wed in church. When he brought up the possibility with his girlfriend, Sep tried to make light of the matter by joking that "we can always go to a judge." "That's not funny," she retorted.

"Nothing," says the two-termer councilor wearily, "has ever prepared me for the scale of the attacks against me." (His co-sponsors are Councilors Bernadette Herrera-Dy and Lala Sotto.)

After all, Juico hails from a family that can only be described as staunchly Catholic, if not loyally La Sallian. His father is Popoy Juico, a former agrarian reform secretary under President Cory Aquino; these days, Popoy serves as a juror in the Catholic Mass Media Awards while hosting a program in the El Shaddai radio station. His mother, Margie is a private secretary of President Aquino. But while his dad once confessed to Sep that "my heart is with you but my mind is not sure," Margie has proven to be Sep's chief cheerleader and defender, even writing a letter to Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco expressing her hurt and heartache at the virulent attacks on her son.

Sep himself is La Sallian green to the core, having studied at La Salle from prep to college ("a rule in our family," he says), graduating with a degree in human resources management. But even before his graduation, Sep was already deep in public service, having served as SK chairman for many years. From there, it was but a short leap to running for councilor, serving the first district of Quezon City. On the side, he also owns two boxing gyms.

* * *

THOUGH the proposed ordinance was formulated by the Anti-Poverty Task Force of Quezon City, composed of 12 city departments, Juico says he agreed to be its main sponsor because he has seen for himself that "we can no longer continue providing band-aid solutions to the problem of poverty, we need to get to the root of the problem."

As part of his work as a councilor, Sep says he makes it a point to "immerse" himself in urban poor communities in his district, sometimes even spending a night with a family. "*Nakakaawa talaga ang kondisyon nila*" (Their condition is really pitiful), he recalls, describing a typical shanty crawling with vermin such that "they no longer wake up when huge rats scamper across their chests at night."

"Everywhere I go, I see pregnant women," he adds, "and usually they tell me it's their fourth or fifth child." What's really depressing, he notes, is that "they are not happy about it, telling me they didn't want to have these many children."

In a privilege speech provoked by the Church's campaign of vilification, Juico said of the issue: "(The parents) come to me for help because they cannot provide for their children and at the same time their family is just getting bigger .... In fact, the clamor is on a national level—nine out of 10 Filipinos consider family planning important and 89 percent believe that it is important for government to provide budgetary support for modern family planning methods and services ..."

* * *

THE PROPOSED ordinance calls for the crafting of "an integrated and comprehensive policy on responsible parenthood, effective population management, and sustainable social development that values the dignity of every human person and affords full protection to people's rights."

A rather innocuous, if not motherhood, statement, you might say. And yet in response, Catholic leaders in Quezon City have launched a full-scale attack on the ordinance and its sponsors. A recent circular signed by Bishop Ongtioco accused the authors of "(using) the name of the poor ... to push their deadly intent of promoting contraceptives and abortifacients." The initiative, said the bishop, "kills the unborn children, cause(s) deadly cancers, destroys the Catholic educational formation of our youth."

A leaflet, which bares the letterhead of the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish, accuses the proposed ordinance of "(bringing) sexual promiscuity to intermediate and high school students in their class lessons," a familiar line in the anti-sex education arsenal of the Church, and of "killing unborn children and manipulating the poor."

* * *

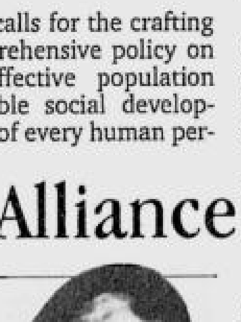
IN ADDITION, the bishop and some parish priests have called on some councilors to talk to them about killing the ordinance outright, even before Juico has had a chance to call a public hearing.

Referring to previous efforts of so-called pro-life groups to torpedo reproductive health legislation in the House of Representatives, a church official even warned Juico that "what we did in Congress is nothing compared to what we'll do to you." There is even talk that should priests in Quezon City spot Juico and the other proponents lined up for Communion, they will be refused Communion, something that has cut the Catholic Juicos to the quick.

"It's been very, very, very bloody," says Sep with some weariness. Expressing surprise at the virulent Church reaction, Juico says he never expected it, and that in all his years in politics, "this is the first serious test I have undergone, and I hope the last."

But the good news is that the 30-year-old councilor is standing fast. "I'm not here to create enemies," he declares, though he realizes that this time, he has found more than he bargained for.

A new 'Holy Alliance'?



WORLD VIEW

Mai Yamani

LONDON—THE RECENT MEETING IN THE VATican of the "Custodian of The Holy Places," King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, and Pope Benedict XVI was a seminal event, particularly as it comes at a time when radical Muslims are decrying the role of "crusaders" in Middle East politics. It was also the clearest sign yet of a rising "Holy Alliance" among the world's conservative leaders. For the key audience of this meeting of a Muslim king and a Roman Catholic pontiff was not their followers; it was another conservative leader, US President George W. Bush.

The first "Holy Alliance" was a creation of Austria's Prince Klemens Wenzel von Metternich following the Napoleonic wars. It was an attempt to preserve the peace (and the security of the relatively weak Austrian Empire) through a coalition of victors upholding shared values.

Metternich's "Holy Alliance" was the one original political idea to emerge from Napoleon's defeat. Behind its exalted name lay an innovation of great diplomatic significance: the introduction of an element of calculated moral restraint into international relations. The vested interests that the Alliance members—Austria, Prussia and Russia—had in the survival of their domestic institutions led each to seek to avoid conflicts that, in the past, they would have pursued as a matter of course.

Metternich's system worked through much of the 19th century, because it protected a genuine balance of power between countries that shared common values. But what "common values" do King, Pope and American President share?

That such a meeting took place is a sign that both Pope and King believed that there was something to achieve. Indeed, Abdullah, who believes himself to be the paramount leader of the Muslim world, is the first Saudi king to initiate a meeting with a leader of the Christian faith.

The two men met, seemingly as equals, not to express the common values of conservatism, but to confirm and promote their authority to uphold traditional values. Both agreed that reform must be slow and cautious, and that it must never undermine established institutions, especially religion and the patriarchal family.

Abdullah sought the meeting because he believes that the world since 2001 has divided the fraternity of conservatives. Until then, he and Bush shared a common worldview, emphasizing the importance of religion, the traditional family (as both countries understood it), social discipline, and the state's role in supporting these institutions.

But Bush, following the terrorist attacks of 2001, turned his back on conservatism. He sought to radically reinvent the Middle East, not only by overthrowing the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, but also through his strident calls for democratization.

American radicalism, however, resulted in increasing tensions between religious communities in the Middle East, and the rise of radical Iran with its bid for regional hegemony. Since 2001, Christian minorities have been targeted throughout the region, including even Lebanon's Maronite Christian community. And in Iraq, Sunni Muslims feel under siege from the country's majority and now ruling Shia.

Here is where the Holy Alliance concept of moral restraint comes in. Abdullah, perhaps earlier than most others, understood that some code of restraint was needed if the entire region was not to descend into a war of all against all.

Moreover, Abdullah understands that his wobbly regime will only be able to withstand the radical gales that are now blowing if it can forge the type of stability-seeking alliance that Metternich built. The king, like Metternich and the Austrian Kaisers, understands de Tocqueville's dictum that the most dangerous moment for a regime is when it starts to reform. Having begun, ever so carefully, to politically open his country, the king knows that he needs regional peace and a lowering of Islamic holy rage.

The problem is that Abdullah cannot rely on his domestic conservative allies to give him the time that the kingdom needs. The Wahhabi religious establishment, the Saudi state's hidden co-rulers, could very well obstruct Abdullah's attempts at regional religious reconciliation. Members of the religious police remain adamant that the country's Christian guests must continue to live according to strict Wahhabi rules of behavior. While the Wahhabis could yet be bribed again with oil money, the sect's power-hungry judges eagerly await the next beheading, stoning, or lashing in Riyadh's public square.

Thus, uniting the forces of status quo conservatism, even if some of those conservatives are Christian, is the only viable diplomatic strategy open to Saudi Arabia. For conservative rulers usually fall when they fail to grasp their own vulnerability, especially when the revolutionary challenge is cloaked in conservative garb. After all, few political systems can defend against those—like Saudi Arabia's Islamic radicals—who claim that they can preserve the system and its religious values more effectively than the current rulers.

Only an alliance of conservative leaders and powers (including a retreat by America from diplomatic radicalism), Abdullah believes, can restore some stability to the Middle East.

Project Syndicate

Mai Yamani is a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Irony

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

"EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS" IS A PHRASE THAT SLIDES easily off the tongue here in the Philippines. It has been repeated and reviled so often that the sting has gone out of the horror, as if there is nothing particularly offensive about the idea that there are those who are killed and lost outside of Lady Justice's all-seeing eye. So much has been written about it, in fact, that each article seems to be a rehash of the last, the newspaper ink smudging and blurring into the same stories where the victim's name just happens to be spelled differently every time.

It is difficult to work up anger over one more lost life, one more boy who won't come home to mother, one more story exposing just how fragile bone and skin and self-respect are compared to the butt of a gun and a pepper-sprinkled sheet of cellophane wrapped around someone's head. The mothers whose angry faces fill the TV screen are just wailing women, moaning about their Jonases and Sherlyns and long-lost Karens. In the face of scandal and poverty and the eerie quiet of a Makati mall, even remembering takes an effort. And so they die.

The courts, whose judges have been standing up in unprecedented numbers for the victims of human rights violations, have been unleashing the judicial equivalent of light sabers, in the hope of providing the beginnings of justice. The latest, the writ of amparo, an old, unused power approved on Sept. 25, 2007, is a remedy available to any person "whose right to life, liberty and security has been violated or is threatened with violation by an unlawful act or omission of a public official or employee, or of a private individual or entity."

Unlike the writ of habeas corpus—a command for the respondent to "show the body"—denial is not sufficient. If the court deems it just, the writ of amparo can be used to require respondent to prove that the respondent—whether government official, military man, or private individual—did not violate or threaten with violation the right to life, liberty and security of the aggrieved party. Essentially, the respondent is not permitted to deny allegations of kidnapping—as was done in the cases of UP students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan—or claim that documents contain sensitive information—as was done in justifying the withholding of information relevant to the disappearance of Jonas Burgos.

As of this week, two people have been liberated because of the writ. On Oct. 27 this year, Luicito "Yongyong" Bustamante, a 21-year-old farmer from Sitio Quarry, Barangay Malabog, Paquibato District in Davao City, passed a checkpoint manned by elements of a paramilitary group formed and maintained by the 73rd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army. Bustamante and two friends had distributed handbills for the barangay elections on board a motorcycle and were on their way back to Sitio Quarry when they were halted, ordered to alight from the motorcycle, and asked by a Noli Obat for names, addresses and purpose, all of which they answered. Obat told Bustamante's companions to go ahead and leave "Yongyong" for further questioning because they had information that he was a member of the New People's Army. He was not allowed to return home.

On Nov. 7, his mother and human rights organization Karapatan filed a petition for a writ of amparo with the Regional Trial Court in Davao City, aided by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and Union of People's Lawyers in Mindanao and the Free Legal Assistance Group. Last Wednesday, Executive Judge Isaac Robillo ordered Bustamante to be presented in court by Obat and other men of the Infantry Battalion. The court claimed there was no reason to deprive the Davao farmer of his liberty and basic rights as a citizen.

Bustamante confessed that he had been severely tortured, beaten, hogtied with his head wrapped in a plastic bag. He had signed an affidavit admitting his membership in the NPA, an admission his lawyers claimed was invalid, especially after Bustamante narrated how he was forced to eat his own feces while being threatened with harm to his family.

Human rights lawyer Harry Roque approves of the writ of amparo, and says that it demonstrates the irony of the judicial system. It is interesting, he says, how the writ can be made to work in low-profile cases, and yet cannot be implemented in the cases of Burgos, Cadapan and Empeño. The writ, he says, is dependent on the integrity of institutions; and in areas further from Metro Manila, even the military is afraid of the courts, and hold them in high esteem. In Manila, however, there is no assurance that even if the military is forced to bend under the writ—something it adamantly refuses to do in Burgos' case—it will submit legitimate documents.

Columnist Marit Stinus-Remonde of the Manila Times calls the writ of amparo "antisoldier." She condemns those who approve of the writ: "Those who rejoice over the Rule on the Writ of Amparo are the very groups that defend and protect the NPA and help it accomplish its mission. The NPA is the country's No. 1 perpetrator of extrajudicial killings." This smacks, of course, of the same arrogance that allows the military to justify violence and human rights violations. Perhaps it is best for Ms Remonde to realize that human rights are not a function only of those who share her political mindset, they are rights afforded to all humanity, regardless of politics. If the writ of amparo will allow those abused by the same soldiers she is protecting to be free of abuse, it is not in defense of the NPA. It is in defense of humanity.

But perhaps Ms Remonde has a point: there are dangers to the writ that we are unaware of—ironically, from the courts itself. Just recently, Newsbreak magazine published an exposé on the Judicial Excellence Awards, described by Chief Justice Reynato Puno as the "Oscars" of the judiciary. Introduced in 1991 by the Foundation for Judicial Excellence (FJE) to "accentuate the positive" in the halls of justice, the awards recognize sterling judicial performances, and is funded privately. Eduardo Cojuangco, who has pending cases with the Supreme Court, is a major donor to the Judicial Excellence Awards, as well as others who also have pending cases.

That it is of public interest to be aware of who may possibly have influence on the judiciary is a given. But not for retired Supreme Court Justice Bernardo Pardo, who denied Newsbreak's request for information on the organization. In a letter to Newsbreak, Pardo said the right to privacy is protected by the writ of amparo, and threatened to use it against the publication. "(It is) a judicial action we will not hesitate to file against Newsbreak." In his rather livid letter, he wrote that "the Society has the right to privacy, and its donors too. They have not consented to the revelation of their donations. This is a Constitutional right that the Society invokes; it is protected by the writ of amparo."

Roque is right, in the end, it all depends on the integrity of institutions.

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

ROOTS OF THE CRISIS

Subprime mortgage meltdown

FUELED BY LOW INTEREST RATES AND EXCESS LIQUIDITY, THE HOUSING BOOM IN THE UNITED States lasted for more than a decade during which mortgage firms extended loans to borrowers with poor credit record. Brokers, who were given fat commissions, enticed these borrowers into availing themselves of housing loans with minimal down payment and lax documentation and credit checks.

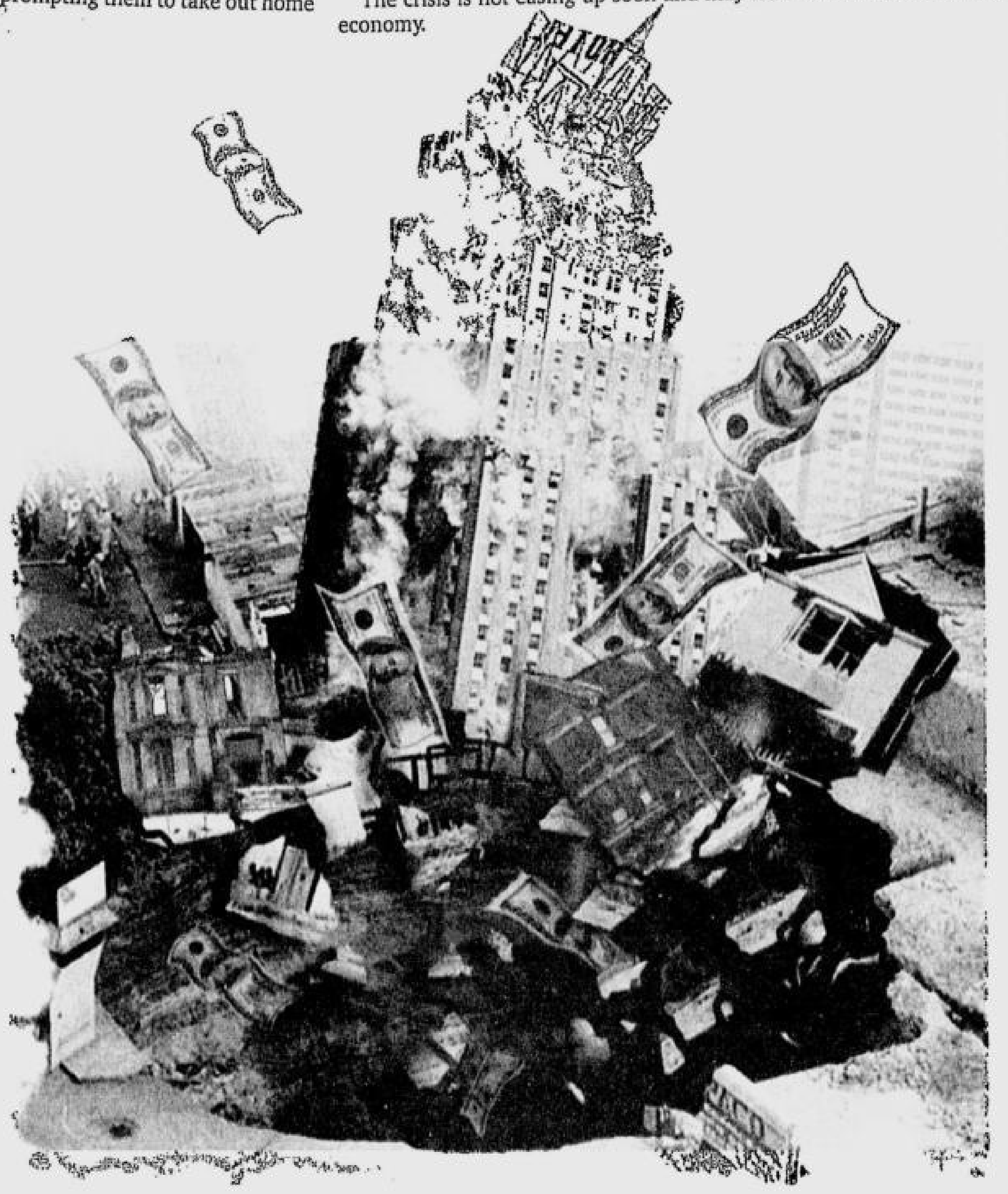
The loans, known as subprime mortgages, typically charge two to three percentage points more than those with less-risky credit profiles and carry adjustable interest rates that can cause payments to jump in later years.

While the going was good, homeowners saw housing prices escalate, prompting them to take out home equity loans that helped fuel consumer spending.

Banks and other financial institutions repackaged the debts with other less risky debts and sold them to investors worldwide. These financial instruments are called collateralized debt obligations (CDOs).

When the borrowers defaulted on their subprime mortgages, things began to unravel. Holders of the CDOs headed for the exits, pushing the prices of their assets down. As a result, thousands of US homes have been foreclosed and financial firms in the United States and others parts of the globe suffered huge losses. ***(See list.)***

The crisis is not easing up soon and may lead to a slowdown in the United States, the world's biggest economy.



By Michael Lim M.H.

IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT BANKERS HAVE A SHORT memory, hence they repeat their errors. We see a repeat of one financial crisis after another, with almost clockwork precision, every 10 years over the last three decades. In the late 1980s, the US economy was severely affected by the fallout from the savings and loans association bankruptcy that cost US tax payers up to $200 billion to clean up.

In the late 1990s, we witnessed the Asian financial crisis that started with the collapse of the Thai baht that soon spread to other Asian economies and brought down many Asian banks and corporations.

The clean up cost many governments and ultimately the taxpayers billions of dollars. Today, 10 years later, we are confronted with another financial crisis emanating from the collapse of subprime mortgages in the US housing industry that has generalized into a credit crunch in the financial industry.

The subprime mortgage crisis blow out began in June this year with the collapse of two hedge funds managed by Bear Stearns. It quickly affected other sectors of the financial markets not only in the United States but also throughout the world. It reached crisis proportion in August-September when it temporarily froze up the money market sector, which is the lifeblood of the banking and financial industry.

That immediately prompted the European Central Bank and the Federal Reserve Bank to pump in close to $100 billion of liquidity into the system, temporarily calming down the markets.

Weak credit background

Suprime mortgage simply means lending to borrowers with marginal or weak credit background to purchase houses. They did that by providing teasers like minimal down payment, adjustable interest rates, and lax documentation and credit checks to entice borrowers to take house loans.

Normally, these mortgages charge an interest rate of 3 percent or higher over the US Treasury note of comparable maturity. In 2006, interest rate spread over US Treasury rose to 5.6 percent. Between 2004 and 2006, $1.5 trillion (or 15 percent of the US total housing loans) of high-interest mortgage loans were booked, of which subprime mortgages are the biggest portion.

These subprime loans were fine as long as the housing market continued to boom and interest rates did not rise. In fact, as house prices continued to escalate, homeowners piled on more debt by taking out home equity loans, which reached a high of $700 billion or five percent of the US GDP in 2004.

Party's over

So what brought this booming party to a screeching halt? Housing markets go through boom and bust cycles. The housing boom in the United States lasted for more than 10 years, fueled by low interest rates and excess liquidity. The Fed dropped short-term interest rate to one percent in 2003. Long-term interest rates were low as foreign countries like China and Japan accumulated huge trade surpluses and funded private and government consumption in the United States.

Much of the private household debt was channeled to the housing industry and this led to a sharp rise in house prices. The median house price in the United States shot up 40 percent between 2000 and 2006 to a high of $234,000. In terms of ratio of median house price to median household income, this rose from a historically stable ratio of three times (from 1970 to 2000) to five times in 2006.

Housing prices tapered off and started to decline by 2006 and are expected to fall more sharply in 2007 and 2008. Concomitantly, defaults and foreclosure rates began to rise. In 2006, 1.2 million household loans were foreclosed, up 42 percent from the previous year.

Cause for concern

Another 2 million is expected to be foreclosed this year, and more in 2008 when 2.5 million adjustable rate mortgages will reset higher.

So why should defaults and foreclosures of subprime mortgages in the United States concern or affect us?

First, financial and technological innovations in the past few decades have simultaneously globalize and shrunk the international financial system. The financial products associated with subprime mortgages have been distributed far and wide through out the world.

Second, financial innovations through risks transfer and dispersion have lulled the players and regulators to accept higher level of leverage and to take on more risks for the system as a whole, thereby increasing the volatility and fragility of the international financial system.

Securitization

Therefore, what started as a crisis in the subprime mortgage industry quickly became a generalized credit crunch for other financial sectors like private equity, leverage buy outs, conduits, and the commercial paper and money market systems.

Thirdly, the decline in the US house prices and industry will have serious knock-on effects on the real economy which in turn will negatively affect the rest of the economies in the world.

One of the important financial instruments introduced in the '80s that have become more sophisticated is the securitization of assets.

Simply put, it means bundling individual assets together (these assets can be housing mortgages, student loans, corporate loans, car loans, credit card loans etc.) into a security, such as a bond, and selling them to investors; hence the term asset-backed securities (ABS).

This is also known as the "origination-distribution" model. Securitization enabled banks and other financial institutions, the originators of these loans, to take on more loans as they move the securitized loans off their books. It is also supposed to transfer some of the risks away from the banking system to other parts of the financial system.

But as we shall see later, these risks did not disappear; they were just dispersed and, in fact, amplified for the system as a whole as it encouraged more leverage and greater degree of risk taking.

Collaterized debt

In the early '90s, financial innovation took this ABS to a higher level in terms of complication and leverage with the introduction of collateralized debt obligations (CDOs).

CDOs are simply the bundling of a class of ABS into a special purpose vehicle and then rearranging these assets into different tranches with different credit ratings, interest rate payments, and priority of repayment. For example, a CDO could consist of 100 subprime mortgage backed securities (MBS).

Using historical rates of default and recovery, let us assume that in an extreme case of default, the loss ratio is no more than 10 percent. Hence, these subprime MBS are divided into AAA tranche (70 percent), mezzanine tranche (20 percent) and subordinated tranche (10 percent). An investor, depending on his risk appetite, can choose which tranche to invest in. The AAA tranche pays lowest interest rate but provides highest priority in terms of debt repayment.

The volume of CDOs issued almost tripled between 2004 and 2006 from $125 billion to $350 billion per year. These CDOs were distributed far and wide. Not only banks throughout the world but also staid establishments like town councils in far flung places like Australia that were chasing for higher yields bought these CDOs.

Like deck of cards

Bank of China alone is exposed to $9 billion of subprime CDOs. Two German state banks investing in CDOs went bankrupt and had to be bailed out by the government.

These CDOs resemble a house built on a deck of cards. When the cards begin to crack, the house falls apart. As subprime borrowers in the United States began to default, investors in the subordinated tranche of the subprime CDOs took the first hit.

This led to a loss of confidence even among investors in the safer tranches who have not yet taken any loss. As they head for the exit door together, this created panic and the sale of these assets led to a downward spiral of prices.

Mismatched funding

Compounding this problem is the fact that many originators of these mortgages engage in the classic strategy of mismatched funding to enhance profit. These companies borrow on a short-term basis (at lower interest rates) to invest in long-term assets (at higher interest rates and risk) in order to capture the differential in interest rates.

This is profitable as long as short-term interest rate is lower than the long-term rate. But when short-term rate moves up more than long-term rate, the interest differential is reduced and a profit can quickly turn to a loss. This is exactly what happened to the savings and loans industry in the 1980s.

A similar problem occurred in the 1990s when Asian banks and corporations played the funding mismatch game. They borrowed in US dollars at a lower interest rate and invested in local currency assets that provided higher yields. The going was good until the dollar appreciated and many banks and companies went bust, as they were unable to repay their debts.

Old wine in new bottle

Today, this problem is haunting many financial institutions that play this game, such as mortgage companies, conduits and banks, including those like Northern Rock, which have no exposure to the subprime mortgages.

The problem with Northern Rock was compounded because it received most of its funds in large amounts from institutional lenders rather than small depositors who are a more stable source of fund. Despite the financial innovations of the last two decades, the underlying problem of funding mismatch is played over and over again; hence, old wine in new bottle.

The fallout from the subprime mortgage affects not only the financial markets but also the US housing market and the real economy. Modern economy is essentially credit driven. The total amount of debt in the United States as a percentage of its GDP rose from 150 percent in 1969, to 240 percent in 1990 and to 340 percent in 2006.

In volume terms, US total debt stands at $45 trillion. US economic growth has been 70 percent powered by household consumption. This, in turn, was made possible by the perceived increase in household wealth, consisting significantly of house ownership.

As we saw earlier, US consumers felt rich when house prices rose and took out home equity loans to spend. Now as house prices begin to tumble, the reverse happens. Home equity loans shrink, consumer confidence plummets, and consumption declines.

Recession

This could drag the country into a recession that would have knock-on effects on the rest of the world. US consumption still accounts for 20 percent of the world's GDP. It is, however, argued by some that there is a decoupling of the emerging market economies from the United States. It remains to be seen to what extent this is true.

The central banks of various countries have stepped in to support specific financial institutions, assist the ailing housing industry, and support the battered financial industry by pumping liquidity into the economy. For the moment, the stock markets are cheered. But they later became like a roller coaster. Despite the cuts in interest rates by the Federal Reserve, markets have dropped.

For how long? We do not know. There is historical evidence to indicate that such liquidity pumping serves to create another bubble down the road. Some refer to this phenomenon as the rolling bubble. The US Treasury Secretary, Henry Paulson, a former Wall Street banker, warns that the problem is not short term but will be with us for a while.

(Michael Lim M.H., Ph.D, is a senior fellow of Nippon Foundation's Asian Public Intellectuals program. He taught sociology and political economy at Temple University in the United States and later worked as commercial and investment banker at Credit Suisse First Boston, Deutsche Bank and Chemical Bank [now J.P. Morgan].)

Huge losses from turmoil

- Merrill Lynch wrote down $8.4 billion on subprime mortgages, asset-backed bonds and leveraged loans, and reported its biggest quarterly loss—$2.24 billion in the third quarter of this year. Its chief executive officer, E. Stanley O'Neal, was forced to resign.
- Morgan Stanley's subprime mortgages and related securities lost $3.7 billion in the past two months. The decline is expected to cut fourth-quarter earnings by $2.5 billion. Morgan Stanley laid off 900 employees.
- Citigroup booked $5.9 billion in losses, which could go up to $13.7 billion. Its chief executive, Charles Prince III, stepped down.
- HSBC Holdings recorded an $880-million impairment charge and closed its US subprime unit Decision One Mortgage. It fired 600 workers. Its losses ballooned to $3.4 billion.
- Bear Stearns announced a write down of $1.2 billion.
- Swiss bank UBS took a charge of 4.2 billion francs (more than $3 billion) and reported a third-quarter pretax loss of 726 million francs or about $625 million. At least 1,500 lost jobs.
- IKB Deutsche Industriebank suffered nearly $1 billion in losses. It was bailed out by the German banking industry.
- German state-owned lender Landesbank Sachsen-Girozentrale received $24.5 billion in emergency funds and was taken over by state-backed Landesbank Baden-Württemberg.
- The US arm of Nomura Holdings, Japan's largest securities firm, posted a $620-million loss, leading to the closure of its residential mortgage operation. The company eliminated 400 jobs.
- Wachovia Corp., one of the largest US banks, suffered $1.3 billion in writedowns and reported a 10-percent decline in third-quarter profit, from $1.88 billion last year to $1.69 billion. It laid off 200 employees.
- Bank of America wrote down $300 million in mortgages and cut 3,000 jobs. Its potential loss may amount to $5.4 billion.
- New Century Financial Corp., one of the largest subprime lenders in the US, filed for bankruptcy protection. It announced the firing of about 3,200 persons.
- Credit Suisse reported about $2 billion in writedowns and posted a 31-percent decline in net income to $1.1 billion. It fired 320 employees.

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Execs reject cash from fish poacher

COTABATO CITY—A ranking official of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) disclosed Friday that he and another official were offered a P700,000 cash "settlement" in exchange for releasing a Chinese fishing vessel impounded at the Bongao Port in Tawi-Tawi.

Keisei Tan Usman, ARMM agriculture assistant secretary, told the INQUIRER that he and ARMM Agriculture Secretary Sajid Druz Ali rejected the offer.

Favor asked

Usman said they were also asked to drop charges of illegal fishing in the Sulu Sea that were filed against the crew of the seized vessel, "Night Rider," which is a Taiwanese fishing boat.

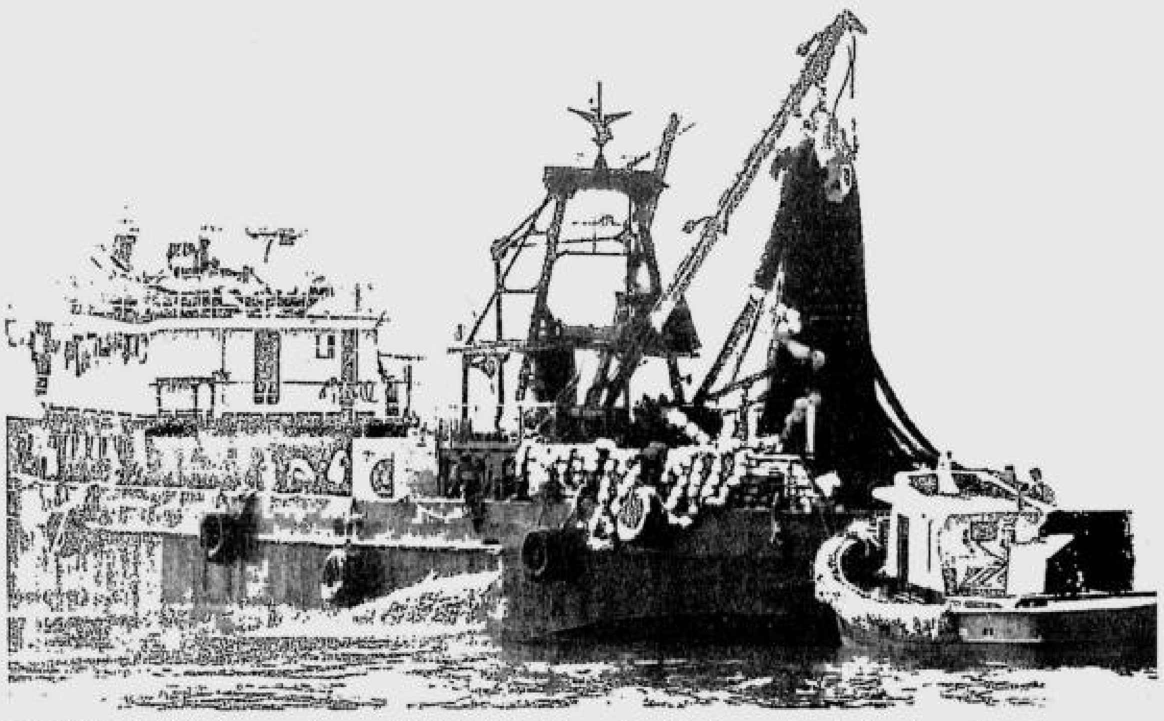
Usman did not say who made the offer but added that it could have been part of a deal that was hatched by lawyers of the firm owning the vessel.

Fishery authorities impounded the Taiwanese vessel after it was found encroaching in the Sulu Sea in August.

The ARMM's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries immediately filed charges against the vessel's crew before the regional trial court of Bongao.

"Well, it's up to them (national offices) to release the vessel, but we declined the money offer," Usman said.

ARMM Gov. Zaldy Uy Ampatuan earlier sought assistance from other government agencies in a bid to prevent foreign commercial fishing vessels from violating regional and national statutes, as well as international maritime laws in the Sulu Sea.



A TAIWANESE fishing vessel named Night Rider is towed to the Bongao Port after it was found encroaching in Philippine waters at the Sulu Sea. DAMIAN APELO/CONTRIBUTOR

Impunity

Alejandre Ampatuan, regional port manager, said foreign fishing vessels usually ignore government jurisdiction over the anchorage areas of the Sulu and Tawi-Tawi ports.

Damian Apelo, ARMM ports services division manager, said the UN Convention on International Maritime Operations (IMO), of which the Philippines is a signatory, defines the realm of sea anchorage area as one extending to and is bounded by at least one-kilometer radius from the nearest berth (port or wharf) area.

Limited capacity

But Apelo said ARMM's limited capability to enforce fishery and sea regulations prompted the regional government to direct an inter-agency task force to closely coordinate its operations with other agencies. *Nash B. Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao*

Freed youth recalls pain of torture in detention

DAVAO CITY—THE YOUNG man who was held by militiamen here but was freed after his family sought the writ of amparo recalled the torture he went through in the hands of his military captors, saying he was earlier too scared to tell the truth even in court.

Luisito Bustamante, 22, was freed on Wednesday from detention by militiamen in Paquibato District when the court heard his family's petition for the writ of amparo.

Torture in the mind

But he bore the memory of the pain of torture, including being fed with his own feces, as he walked away from his tormentors, led by a certain Noli Ubat, head of the militia group that seized Bustamante at a checkpoint.

Bustamante was with friends in a motorcycle on Oct. 27 when he was taken by militiamen who accused him of being a New People's Army member. He and his friends were distributing campaign materials for the barangay elections.

Military officials later justified Bustamante's arrest, saying they had information that he was a guerrilla.

The officials also pointed to a document that Bustamante was supposed to have signed confessing to being a communist guerrilla. The young man signed the document in detention.

The moment he was set free, Bustamante recounted how he had been beaten black and blue while he was blindfolded.

He said in one of those beatings, he defecated in his pants because of the pain and the fear of more pain.

'He stinks'

Bustamante said his alleged tormentors even made him swallow his own feces.

"Someone said, 'wash him, he stinks.' Who could not defecate from all those beatings? They washed me but afterwards, someone said, 'open your mouth," he said.

As soon as he opened his mouth, Luisito said his tormentors made him swallow his own feces.

"I wanted to spit it out but they threatened to beat me again," he said.

A neighbor asked him if he indeed swallowed his dirt and when Luisito nodded, the neighbor tried to comfort him. "It's okay, Dong. After all, it was your own feces."

Luisito also recounted how his tormentors covered his head with cellophane and put pepper all over it.

He said the ordeal gave excruciating pain to his nose, eyes and face.

He said his tormentors also stepped on his face and back.

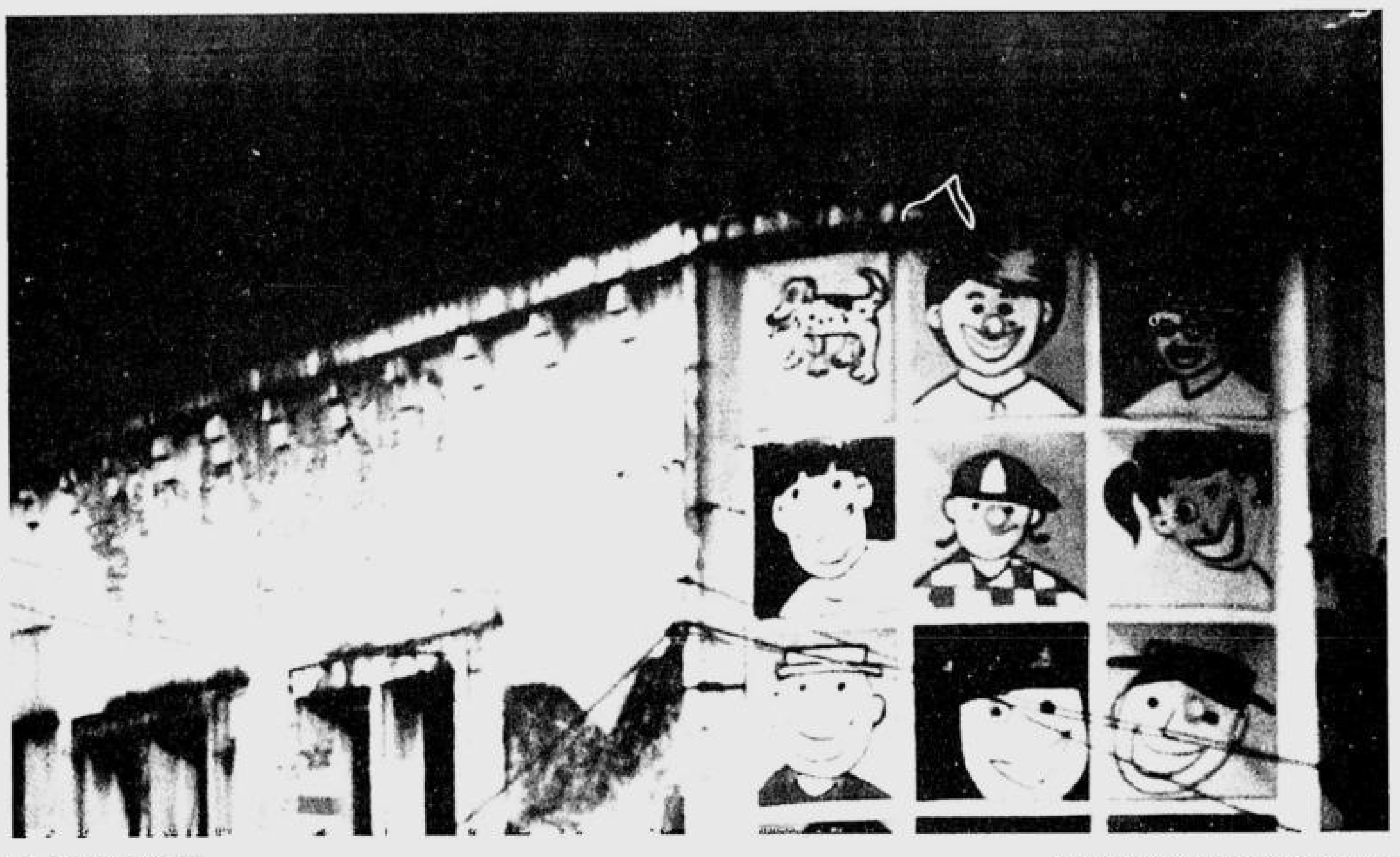
"Once, they brought a sack of cement and a spade and I could hear the flat metal blade of the spade brushing through the cement and thought that if they're going to bury me alive, it will take long before I die," he said.

Afraid in court

Luisito's story to his family and friends was totally different from the things he told the court that was hearing the petition filed by his mother, Bebelita.

During the hearing on Wednesday, Luisito admitted before Executive Judge Isaac Robillo of the regional trial court branch 13 that he was a member of the NPA.

He also told the judge that he voluntarily went to the militia detachment to seek militia leader Noli Ubat's help. *Germelina A. Lacorte and Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao*



HAPPY FACES

An abandoned building block at the heart of Session Road in Baguio City comes to life with cartoons painted on one of its walls by an art group that calls itself Tahong Bundok. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Bolinao stakes claim to Mass held in 1324

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BOLINAO, PANGASINAN—WAS a Catholic Mass held here 200 years before Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan arrived in the Philippines?

Memorial markers were put up in front of the town's church and on Santiago Island, claiming that in 1324, Franciscan missionaries led by an Italian priest named Odorico took refuge in this town during a typhoon.

The markers said Odorico celebrated a thanksgiving Mass in honor of the safe journey of the mission. Odorico also baptized natives during his brief stay here.

The markers, which were put up in July, were donated by Italian priest Luigi Malamocco, who hails from Odorico's hometown of Friuli, Italy.

Malamocco, 62, the chief financier of Villa Brunora, a retreat house in Batangas City, published a booklet that claimed the first Mass in the country was held in Bolinao and not on Limasawa Island or in any other place in the country.

Historical accounts recognize Limasawa in Southern Leyte as the venue of the first Mass held on March 31, 1521, Easter Sunday.

Another claimant to hosting the first Mass was Butuan City on behalf of its old Masao (Mazaua) district.

The National Historical Institute, however, settled the dispute on the venue of the first Mass in favor of Limasawa.

E. Visayas defies pests, hikes copra yield

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—DESPITE being hit by coconut leaf beetle infestation, Eastern Visayas has posted a copra production of more than 150,000 metric tons in the third quarter, which was even higher than the copra production in the first two quarters of this year.

A recently released report of the National Statistics Coordination Board regional office (NSCB) here showed that copra production in the region from July to September this year has reached 151,151 metric tons.

The third quarter regional copra production was much higher than the 106,247 MT produced in the second quarter and the 114,903 MT production in the first quarter of 2007, the report showed.

Copra production in the third quarter, according to the same NSCB report, was highest in the province of Leyte, which reached 49,329 MT. This was followed by Northern Samar with 38,407 MT; Eastern Samar, 33,127 MT; Samar, 17,076 MT; Southern Leyte, 8,727 MT; and Biliran, 4,485 MT.

Copra price in the region is now over P26, or P10 more than the P16.71 average price of copra in the region in 2006.

The good copra price is being attributed to the increasing demand of coconut oil both in the domestic and international markets.

Eastern Visayas is the country's second largest coconut producing region with 649,030 hectares of the region's land area planted with over 71 million coconut trees.

January polls to decide division of Quezon

LUCENA CITY—A PLEBISCITE has been scheduled in January next year for the proposed division of Quezon province into two separate political units, according to Rep. Danilo Suarez.

Suarez said President Macapagal-Arroyo had already assured funding for the political exercise.

"Let us all cast aside sentimentalism. It's about time that the other half of the province begin to chart its own course for the development and progress of its own people," Suarez, representing Quezon's 3rd district, said in a phone interview Saturday.

The proposed legislation was filed by then Quezon Representatives Wigberto Tañada and Rafael Nantes in 1998.

Nantes is the newly elected governor of the province.

The 13th Congress passed the proposal and it lapsed into law last September after Ms Arroyo failed to sign it within the required period.

Quezon, measuring 862,676 hectares and located east of Metro Manila, is the longest province and the sixth largest in the country.

Under the proposed division, the first and second districts of the province will be known as Quezon del Norte.

It will be composed of Lucena City and the following municipalities: Burdeos, Gen. Nakar, Infanta, Jomalig, Lukban, Mauban, Pagbilao, Patnanungan, Polillo, Real, Sampaloc, Tayabas, Candelaria, Dolores, San Antonio, Sariaya, Tiaong.

Lucena City will remain as the capital.

'Let us all cast aside sentimentalism...'

Quezon del Sur will be composed of the following towns from the third and fourth districts of the province: Agdangan, Buenavista, Catanauan, General Luna, Macalelon, Mulanay, Padre Burgos, Pitogo, San Andres, San Francisco, San Narciso, Unisan, Alabat, Atimonan, Calauag, Guinyangan, Gumaca, Lopez, Perez, Plaridel, Quezon and Tagkawayan.

Suarez said Ms Arroyo had also assured funds for the construction of a government center for the new province of Quezon del Sur to be located between Gumaca and Pitogo towns.

"It will be the location of a modern government hospital and new provincial capitol building," he said.

The lawmaker, a known strong ally of Ms Arroyo, vowed to use his influence and tap all available resources from different national government agencies to provide the impetus for the development of the new province.

Suarez said the new province to be created will have a fresh start and will be free from any financial obligations, apparently referring to an estimated P1 billion loan incurred by the provincial government for the construction of the Quezon Medical Center and the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City.

With the division, the loan will fall on the Quezon del Norte provincial government.

Lucena Bishop Emilio Marquez has declared support for the division of the province.

"The people of Quezon province, especially those from the third and fourth districts, have long been waiting for this division not for anything else but to steer and create their own destiny. It's about time that they be allowed to do so," Marquez said.

Infanta Catholic Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona said he did not question the province's division as long as it was good for the people.

Opposition to the planned division of Quezon, which Vice Gov. Carlos Portes has vowed to wage across the province, has yet to be seen. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Stringing beadwork and peace advocacy

By Julie S. Alipala
Jolo, Sulu

UNLIKE OTHER PEOPLE WHO GO ON meditation or yoga to fight job-related stress, peace development advocate Prof. Rufa Cagoco-Guiam finds relaxation in beadwork.

Guiam has been working in conflict areas since 1970, but she would be able to tell a humorous story or two.

During one of her speaking engagements in Jolo, Sulu, the INQUIRER caught up with Guiam inside her room at the Sulu State College Hostel. She was busy stringing beads.

"It's a diversion and part of de-stressing myself," she said as she carefully selected colorful beads of crystals and pearls before hooking these onto a silver wire with a tiny pair of pliers.

Twenty minutes later, the 55-year-old professor at the Mindanao State University (MSU) in General Santos City produced a pair of earrings fashioned out of Swarovski crystals and 18-carat silver wire.

Making the earrings helped her to relax, she said, so she could listen to more stories about armed conflict.

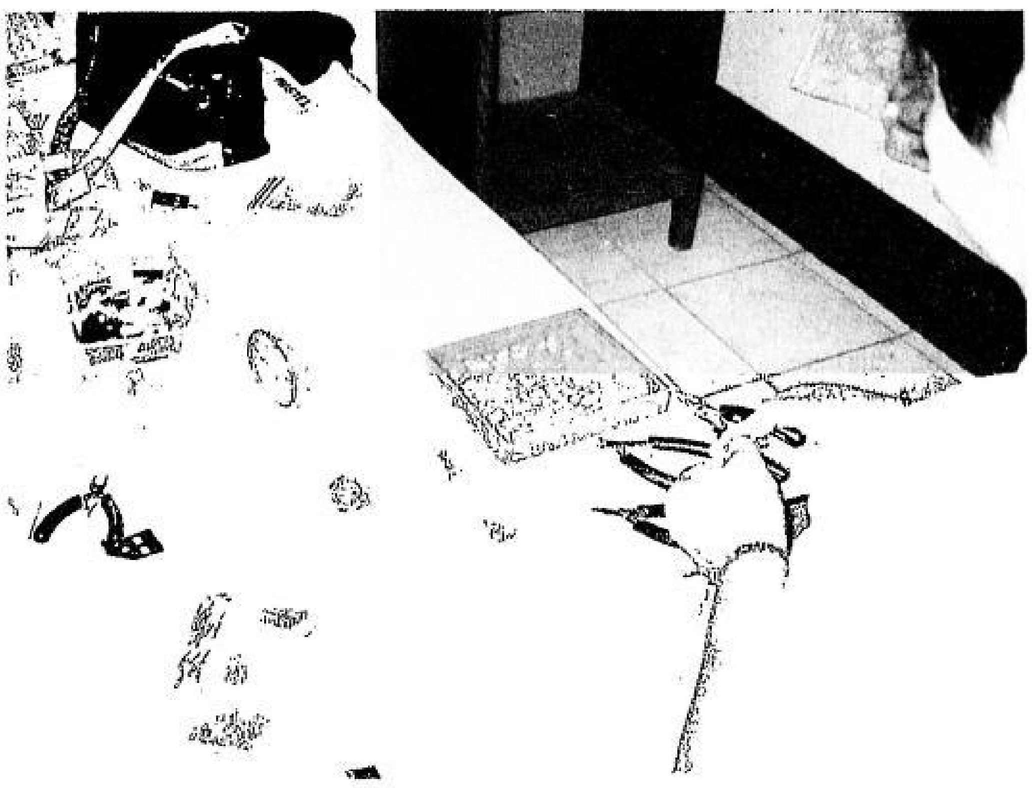
> Making the earrings helped her relax, she said, so she could listen to more stories about armed conflict.

First pain

This anthropologist from Bohol admitted that it took her more than two decades to confront her first pain. Although her parents were eligible to marry when she was conceived, they decided not to do so, she said.

"Early in life, I had learned to come to terms [with] some things—even painful ones. I had to accept that I was born and raised without a "regular" father—that he was always referred to as one who "is in the picture" but whose image was not shown to me at all," she said.

She left her birthplace to seek a new identity and found herself teaching in one of the schools in Mangagoy, Surigao del Sur.



PEACE advocate Rufa Cagoco-Guiam does beadwork to relax. JULIE S. ALIPALA

Her mother granted her wish to pursue higher education at the Silliman University in Dumaguete City, where her association with various communities of faith motivated her to focus on understanding conflict and peace in Mindanao.

She was recruited to teach in a Silliman-affiliated college in Midsayap, North Cotabato, and did so in 1975 for one year.

In 1976, she said she was "pirated" by officials of the Notre Dame University in Cotabato City. There, she experienced real life drama unfold from the battles of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the military.

She married Morie Guiam, a fellow anthropologist from Maguindanao. "I never regretted this decision that paved the way for a turning point in my life, my conversion to Islam," she said.

Guiam eventually became editor in chief of the Mindanao Cross, a local paper in Cotabato City, which is owned by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and later dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the Notre Dame University.

Social development

In 1997, Guiam was recruited by the United Nations Development Program to become a senior technical adviser for its social development project for MNLF communities in Mindanao.

"This meant I had to go to far-flung communities in 14 provinces and 10 cities (including remote areas in Palawan and Zamboanga del Norte and del Sur) and it was through this project that I experienced a daily dialogue of action," she said.

The project provided relief and rehabilitation support to make the MNLF-influenced communities recover from more than 20 years of war (1970s to late 1990s).

"It was here where I realized that everything I learned in graduate school about development work had to be thrown out of the window," Guiam said.

"All these experiences have enriched my life and made me more attuned to active dialoguing on a day-to-day basis," she said.

Dialogue and life

Her "experiential journey of dialogue and life" might have been fruitful and enlightening for communities and academe where she worked with but not to herself, she said.

Her experiences with extreme situations in Mindanao left her with a heart disease.

"Although I had a happy family, something was still amiss; I became impatient and hot-tempered and I easily snapped at something," she said.

During Ramadan in 2001, Guiam said she became interested in a friend's hobby—making jewelry out of crystal, pearls and other materials.

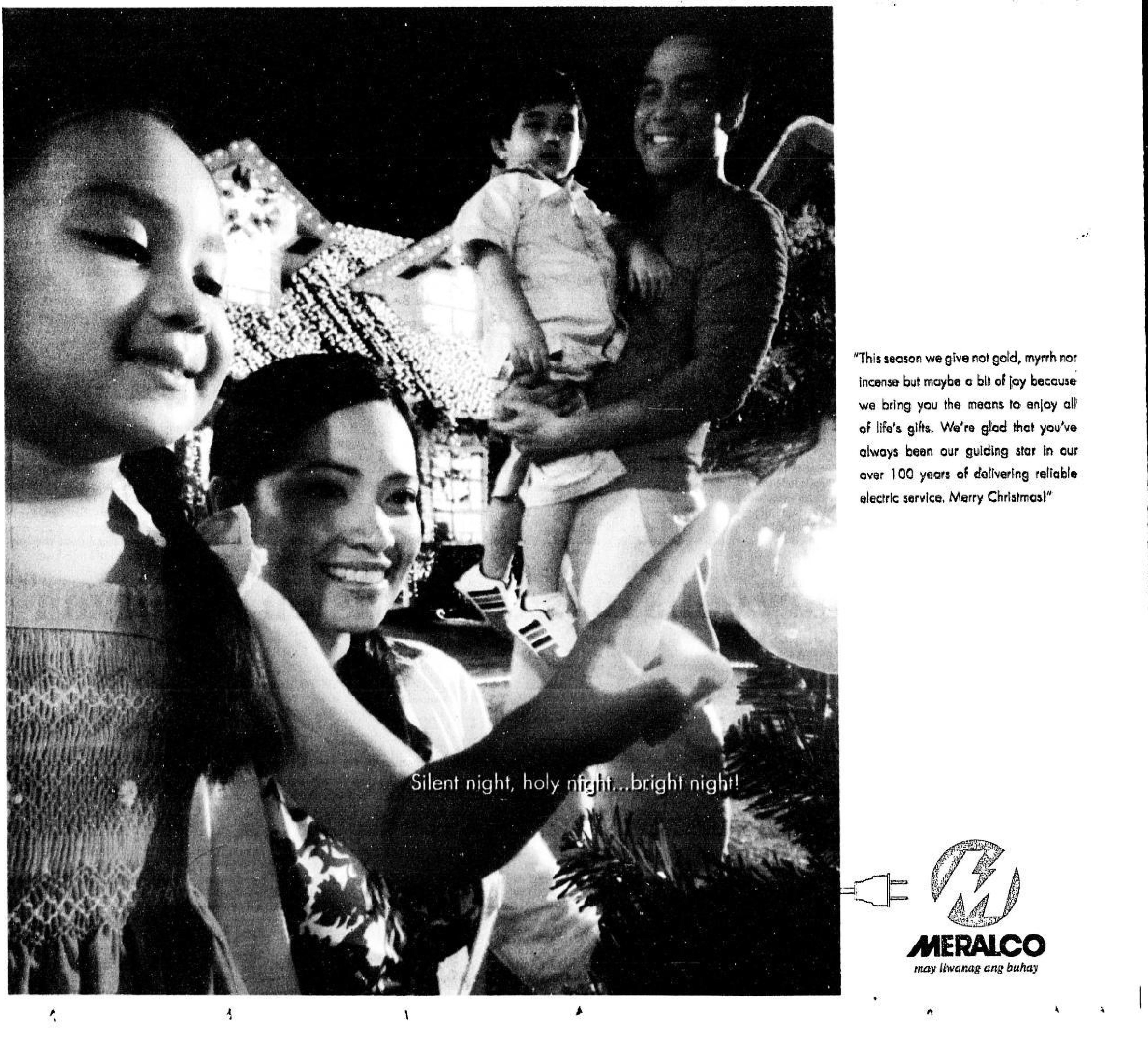
"Beadwork, I say, is a significant part of my system, my life. When you start doing something like a bracelet and you run out of materials, you have to make a decision, such as [whether to] leave the work unfinished or continue with it using and devising other materials to create something beautiful," Guiam said.

She said her memories and experiences served as her main inspiration in creating designs for her first work.

"And I became oblivious of time until we all concluded the fasting period producing something exquisite and beautiful from pieces of stones and beads," she said.

Now, Guiam is also teaching others how to make something out of beads and wires in the hope that they too could find it as a "de-stressing" hobby.

"And also a source of income," she said.


Silent night, holy night...bright night!

"This season we give not gold, myrrh nor incense but maybe a bit of joy because we bring you the means to enjoy all of life's gifts. We're glad that you've always been our guiding star in our over 100 years of delivering reliable electric service. Merry Christmas!"

MERALCO
may liwanag ang buhay

Guide to beat climate change completed

From page A1

al breakthrough—an agreement to launch negotiations for a comprehensive climate change deal that all nations can embrace," he said.

The report seeks to guide politicians facing tough decisions on cutting pollution from fossil fuels, shifting to cleaner energy, bolstering defenses against extreme weather, and other issues set to intensify due to climate change.

Real, affordable ways

UN experts say a new global plan must be in place by 2009 to ensure a smooth transition when the Kyoto Protocol terms expire.

"There are real and affordable ways to deal with climate change," Ban said.

He said the Bali talks should set the agenda and a timetable for a post-2012 plan that must provide for funding to help poor countries adopt clean energy and to adapt to changing climates.

Opening with a sweeping statement directed at climate change skeptics, the summary declares that climate systems unquestionably have already begun to change.

The evidence is in the measured warming of air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting snow and ice, and rising sea levels.

It says recent research has heightened concern that the poor and the elderly will suffer most from climate change; hunger and disease will be more common; droughts, floods and heat waves will afflict the world's poorest regions; and more animal and plant species will vanish.

Unless action is taken, human activity could lead to "abrupt and irreversible changes" that would make the planet unrecognizable.

Issued despite pressure

Advocate groups hailed the report as indispensable for the 10,000 delegates expected at Bali.

"We expect to see their personal copies of the Synthesis Report return from Bali, battered and worn from frequent use, with paragraphs underlined and notes in the margin," said Stephanie Tunmore of Greenpeace.

The World Wide Fund for Nature, another observer of the talks in Valencia, praised the IPCC for issuing a strong report, "despite intense pressure from some governments during the week."

The report does not commit participating governments to any course of action. But it is important because it is adopted by consensus, meaning those countries accept the underlying science and cannot disavow its conclusions.

It also provides a common scientific baseline for the political talks.

But differences on how to control carbon emissions remain stark.

Scientific certainty

While the European Union has taken the lead in enforcing the carbon emission targets outlined in the Kyoto Protocol, the United States opted out of the 1997 accord.

US President George W. Bush described it as flawed because major developing countries like India and China, which are large carbon emitters, were excluded from any obligations.

He also said he preferred a voluntary regime.

Sharon Hays, a White House science official and head of the US delegation, said the certainty of climate change was clearer now than when Bush rejected the Kyoto Protocol.

"What's changed since 2001 is the scientific certainty that this is happening," she said in a conference call to reporters late Friday.

Threatened treasures

Ban told the IPCC delegates that he had just been on a trip to see ice shelves breaking up in Antarctica and the melting Torres del Paine glaciers in Chile.

He also visited the Amazon rainforest, which he said was being "suffocated" by global warming.

"I come to you humbled after seeing some of the most precious treasures of our planet—treasures that are being threatened by humanity's own hand," he said, adding:

"These scenes are as frightening as a science fiction movie. But they are even more terrifying, because they are real."

In a commentary published in the International Herald Tribune on Saturday, Ban called for urgent action on global warming.

"I believe we are on the verge of a catastrophe if we do not act ..." he wrote.

"I am not scare-mongering. But I believe we are nearing a tipping point."

But Ban characterized the report's conclusions as "encouraging."

"The overarching message: We can beat this. There are real and affordable ways to deal with climate change," he wrote.

Unequivocal human role

The report said the evidence of a human role in the warming of the planet was now "unequivocal."

Retreating glaciers and loss of snow in Alpine regions, thinning Arctic summer sea ice and thawing permafrost show that climate change is already on the march, it said.

By 2100, global average surface temperatures could rise by between 1.1 degrees Celsius and 6.4 degrees Celsius compared to 1980-99 levels, while sea levels will rise by between 18 and 59 centimeters (7.2 and 23.2 inches), it forecasted.

Heat waves, rainstorms, tropical cyclones and surges in sea level are among the events expected to become more frequent, more widespread or more intense this century.

"This is the strongest document the IPCC has produced," said Hans Verolme, director of the WWF's Global Climate Change Program.

According to Verolme, the report said more clearly than any previous version, for example, that global warming was likely to be "irreversible."

"It is a tremendous result—the overwhelming scientific evidence of climate change is here. Now the ball is in the court of politicians," he said.

All affected

The report said "all countries" would be affected by climate change, but poorer countries—ironically those least to blame for causing the problem and who had the least resources for coping—would be hit hardest.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is tasked with setting a "roadmap" of negotiations for intensifying cuts in carbon emissions beyond 2012, when the Kyoto Protocol runs out.

Carbon pollution, emitted especially by the burning of oil, gas and coal, traps heat from the sun, thus warming the Earth's surface and inflicting changes to weather systems.

Emissions are spiraling, driven more recently by coal-fired plants in fast-growing China and India.

In its present form, the Kyoto Protocol will not even make a dent in this threat. *Inquirer wires*

"A REAL BREAKTHROUGH" says UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon (second from right) during the news conference. Beside him is IPCC Chair Rajendra Pachauri (second from left) after the 27th Plenary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in Valencia, Spain, on Saturday. REUTERS/

GMA to press environment issues in Asean

By Norman Bordadora

SINGAPORE—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo is expected to follow up in Singapore environmental issues concerning Southeast Asia, including the need for renewable sources of energy and the conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems.

At a briefing yesterday on the series of summits of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations scheduled here on Nov. 19-22, Filipino journalists were told that Ms Arroyo's first meeting was expected to cover environmental issues.

She meets with the heads of state of Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia for the BIMP-East Asia Growth Area summit tomorrow.

"This concerns the areas of Palawan in the Philippines, Sulawesi in Indonesia, Sabah and Sarawak in Malaysia and Brunei," said Assistant Foreign Secretary Luis Cruz.

"This is the so-called coral triangle. This is an area very rich in biodiversity," Cruz said.

Ms Arroyo is scheduled to arrive late this afternoon to take part in and sign a number of agreements, including the Asean charter and a declaration on environmental sustainability.

Singapore, as chair of the 41st Asean Standing Committee, is hosting the series of meetings, which include the 11th Asean Plus Three Summit with China, Korea and Japan, 11th Asean-China Summit, 11th Asean-Japan Summit, 11th Asean-Korea Summit, 6th Asean-India Summit and 3rd East Asia Summit.

Key themes

The key themes of the discussions at the 13th Asean Summit and related meetings are energy, the environment, climate change and sustainable development.

Ms Arroyo, as chair of the past summit held in Cebu City, is expected to follow up on issues on the use of alternative fuels.

She is also expected to conduct bilateral talks with New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark on Nov. 21.

New Zealand is one of the dialogue partners of the 3rd East Asia Summit scheduled on Wednesday.

One meeting that may be of special interest to Filipinos is the one among economic ministers, where two mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs) that will allow the member-countries' respective architects and surveyors to practice in other member-states are expected to be signed.

"We are building a borderless community [where there] is a free flow of goods and, in this case, a free flow of services," said Cruz, who is also the executive director of the DFA Office on Asean affairs.

"One of the expected developments [this] week is the signing of the [MRAs] covering architects and surveyors," he said. "Many Filipinos will benefit from these MRAs."

Under the agreements, architects and surveyors from Asean member-states no longer need to take licensure examinations in other states for them to practice their profession.

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Mr. Dennis Rhoniel C. Balan
(DRCB Photography Services)
For successfully establishing himself as one of the proficient photographers in the country and working towards providing training and opportunities for his fellow Deaf

Ms. Jocelyn C. Garcia
(Tahanang Walang Hagdanan)
For having laid the foundations for the Tahanang Walang Hagdanan Business Center which aims to empower people with disabilities through entrepreneurial capacity-building, product and service marketing, and equal opportunity advocacy efforts

Mr. Antonio D. Llanes Jr.
(ATRIEV)
For placing confidence on his inclination towards technology and remarkable people skills in establishing ATRIEV, the pioneer non-government organization focused on consolidating the efforts of both public and private sector in supporting demand-driven programs for the blind

Mr. Juan Benedicto K. Magdaraog
(Sparkplug Studios)
For devoting his time and Industrial Design expertise to his online entrepreneurial start-ups and staunchly advocating for the increased awareness of Pompe's Disease

Ms. Maria Gilda L. Quintua
(M.G.L.Q. Deaf Tour Assistance Philippines)
For sharing her enthusiasm for travel with persons from all over the world by establishing the M.G.L.Q. Deaf Tour Assistance Philippines, the only agency in the country which also caters to the travel needs of Deaf and other PWDs

Sa mga kapatid nating PWDs, inaanyayahan namin kayong dumalo sa event na ito!
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PROGRAM SCHEDULE: 8:00 - Registration, 9:00 - Opening Ceremonies, 9:20 - Welcome Remarks by Joey Concepcion (PCE), 9:30 - Awarding of the Go Negosyo Inspiring PWD Entrepreneurs, 10:00 - Keynote Forum with Go Negosyo Advocates, Sec. Cerge Remonde (PMS), Cong. Cynthia Villar, Carla Limcaoco (Philippine Transmarine Carrier, Inc.), Moderators: Jose Ma. A. Concepcion III and Karen Davila, 10:45 - Forum: Business Opportunities for PWDs, Bro. Vic Franco FSC (DLS-CSB), Maoi Arroyo (Hybridigm Consulting), Cecilio Pedro (Lamoiyan Corporation), Les Reyes (Reyes Haircutters), Paulo Tibig (V Cargo) with the Go Negosyo Inspiring PWD Entrepreneurs, Moderators: Karen Davila and RJ Ledesma, 12:00nn - Raffle/Booksigning, Closing Remarks - Bro. Vic Franco FSC Brother President, DLS-CSB

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DAWN OF A NEW BEGINNING: Jami Dawn Henares of Bacolod leaves the 400m pack behind on the way to winning the gold medal in the Philippine Olympic Festival. The event, held at the Rizal Memorial sports complex, is aimed at looking for fresh talents to supply the national pool with athletes who could end up representing the country in the Olympics someday. *Story on page A25* RAFFY LERMA

Red Bull halts run of P'foods

By Musong R. Castillo

TACLOBAN—A DECIMATED RED BULL squad taught Purefoods a neat little lesson: You can't win 'em all.

Red Bull put the first blemish on the Tender Juicy Giants' Smart PBA Philippine Cup record last night after a coast-to-coast 87-74 victory in a road game at the Tacloban Convention Center here.

Unforgiving defensively and sharp on the other end, the Barako stopped the magical Purefoods run at seven games while snapping a two-game slide of their own to grab a piece of second place with three others at 4-3.

After getting past a 25-26 deficit early in the second period, Red Bull never trailed, leading by as many as 15 points at 78-63 after a 12-4 run that opened up fourth quarter hostilities.

And the Barako were able to do it with coach Yeng Guiao arriving from the United States just a couple of hours before game time, without injured starters Junthy Valenzuela and Rich Alvarez and Celino Cruz having went home in the morning.

Cruz, who almost always starts at point guard for Guiao and who is the leading three-point shooter in the league at over 45%, developed symptoms of the chicken pox and had to fly back to Manila.

Curiously, the last two times Purefoods played in this progressive city also resulted in losses. And the Giants will remember this one for a long time as it stopped a magnificent run of 12 games overall dating to the pre-season tournament which they ruled.

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	7	1
Magnolia	4	3
Talk 'N Text	4	3
Alaska	4	3
Red Bull	4	3
Welcoat	3	4
Air21	3	4
Sta. Lucia	3	4
Brgy Ginebra	2	5
Coca-Cola	1	5

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:05 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Magnolia
6:35 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Coca-Cola

Mick Pennisi led the Barako with 19 points built around a 4-of-8 clip from three-point area, while Purefoods got only James Yap, who scored 23, and Kerby Raymundo with 13, scoring in twin digits.

Meanwhile, Barangay Ginebra and Magnolia, sister teams coming off losses, try to get back on track when they clash today in the 4:05 p.m. game at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

The Gin Kings, the slumping and walking wounded defending champions, and the pre-tournament favorites Beverage Masters took stinging setbacks Friday night against foes they were touted to beat.

Magnolia is currently tied for second spot with Talk 'N Text and idle Alaska at 4-3, quite not the record most would expect from a team that could easily have two starting units.

The Phone Pals, meanwhile, have an easier time against Coca-Cola in the 6:35 p.m. contest with the Tigers still hobbling with the absence of two key starters in John Arigo and Alex Cabagnot.

Mark Caguioa returned for the Kings on Friday but was of little help, shooting just six points in 14 minutes after missing Ginebra's first six games because of a shoulder injury that needed healing in the United States.

The 6-foot gunslinger is expected to come out in better form today and give the Kings the go-to-guy they have missed for most of the tournament. Ginebra bungled control on Friday and couldn't keep up with Air21 in the endgame, going down, 102-95.

Eric Menk also suited up against the Express and if he can play extended minutes today, then the Kings will have someone formidable to battle the rock-solid Magnolia frontline underneath.

Nationals Danny Seigle and Dondon Hontiveros will lead the Beverage Masters on offense with back up coming from a talented backcourt.

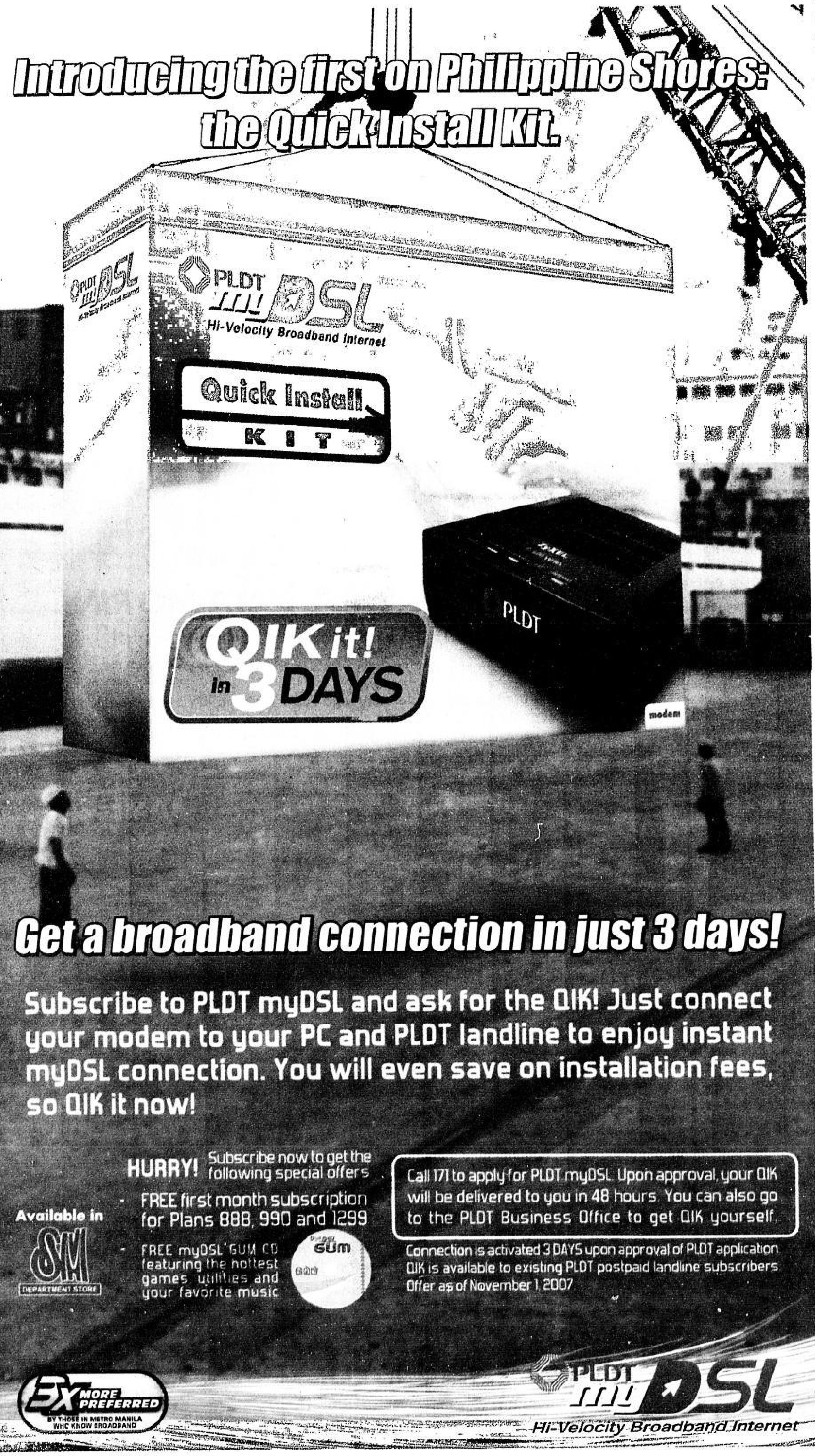
The scores:

RED BULL 87—Pennisi 19, Bagulo 12, Najorda 10, Hrabak 9, Robinson 8, Bugia 7, Sharma 6, Ybanez 5, Duncil 5, Camaso 2, Membrere 2, Andaya 2.

PUREFOODS 74—J. Yap 23, Raymundo 13, Pingris 9, Simon 9, Salvador 8, Yee 4, Lanete 3, Adducul 3, Evangelista 2, Larong 0, R. Yap 0, Cablay 0.

Quarters: 20-17, 40-37, 66-59, 87-74

More Sports stories on A23 to A26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Robots take over Marikina —but only for Christmas

HAVE yourself a robotic Christmas.

PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

By Kristine L. Alave

ROBOTS HAVE INVADED Marikina City.

But residents need not be alarmed because the silver-gray steel figures which can be found in the streets and in public parks are not out to take over the city.

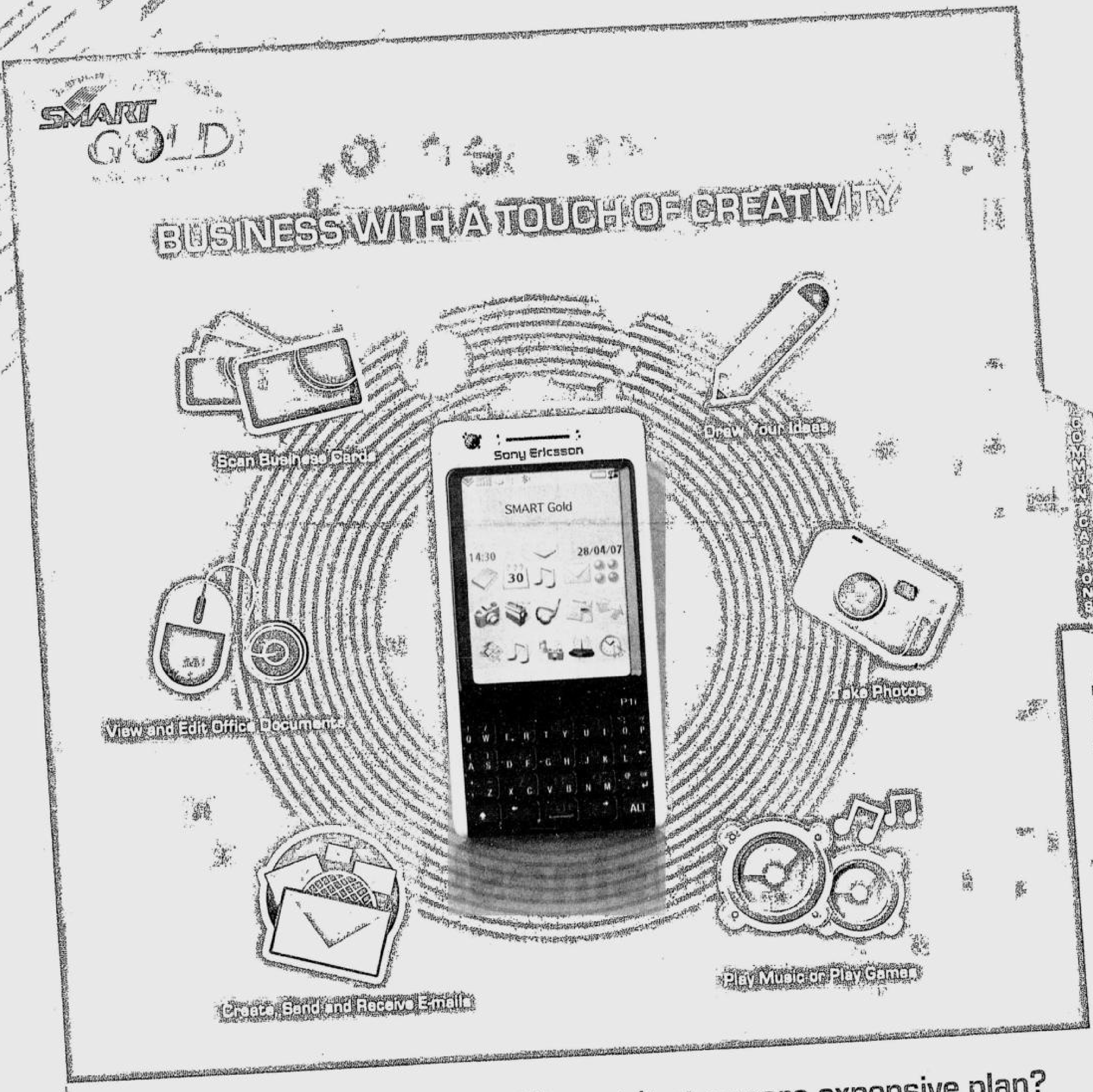
Instead, they are there to spread Christmas cheer and to remind Marikina denizens of how far the city has come in the past years.

Every year, the city government comes up with a theme for the holiday decorations it puts up all over the city.

This year's theme is "Transformers," based on the movie of the same title about a gang of robots.

Weird-looking, multi-limbed

ROBOTS/ A20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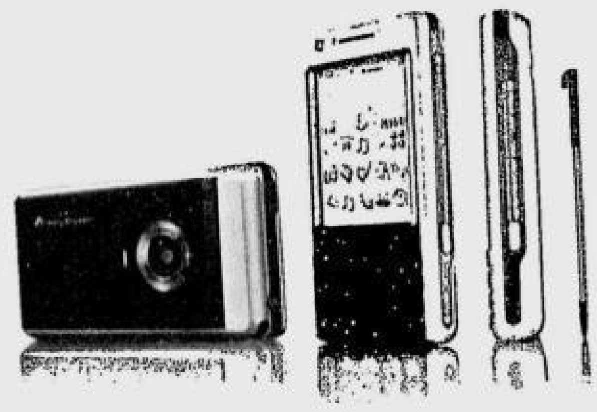

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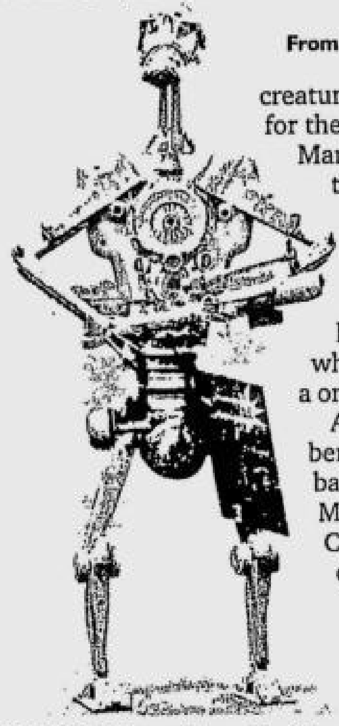
Robots take over ...



NOT YOUR traditional holiday decor.

From page A19

creatures are not exactly a traditional décor for the holidays but Ronald Ramido of the Marikina public information office said the theme is of particular significance to the city.

According to Ramido, the activity is a tribute to the local officials—past and present—who helped transform Marikina into what it is today, a competitive city from a once backyard municipality.

Among these officials are the incumbent Mayor Marides Fernando, her husband, former mayor and now Metropolitan Manila Development Chair Bayani Fernando and Vice Mayor Marion Andres.

So far, the robots have been a hit among residents. In front of the city hall where several are on display, parents take photos of their children with the robots in the background. Some of the kids gleefully run around the "creatures."

MARIKINA'S "Transformers" refer to local officials, past and present, who played a part in the city's development.

Nestor Nierva, the officer in charge of the city's steel fabrication department which was in charge of building the robots, said some of their creations were patterned after those in popular television shows, although most of the pieces were designed by the welders themselves.

"At first, I would scrutinize their work. But later on, the workers became very good at it," he said. "The welding hurts the eyes, but it's worth it because we get to use our imagination, to be creative," he added.

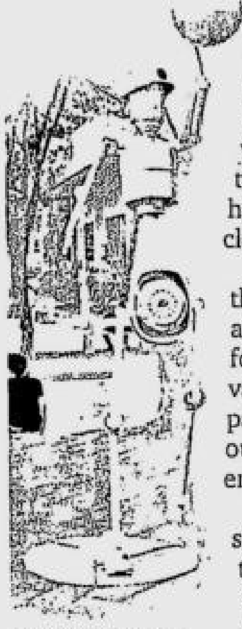
The official said they got their ideas from anime shows like "Gundam" and "Voltes V." The Gundam-inspired robot, he said, was one of the biggest and popular pieces they made.

Dave David, an employee at the warehouse, said they also visited art websites on the Internet to get an idea of how to construct sculptural pieces from scrap metal.

WORKERS from Marikina's steel fabrication department created the robots using scrap metal.

While other cities shelled out money for fancy decorations and expensive Tivoli lights to adorn their streets and public spaces, Marikina City decided to recycle some of its resources in line with its image as an environment-friendly city.

Before the project started, the city government's automotive warehouse in Barangay Sto. Niño was bursting with rusty scraps and defective metal parts from machines and vehicles, David said.



A BASKETBALL player from the future.

Since the workers at the engineering department started to assemble the robots last month, the floor-to-ceiling racks in the warehouse which used to be full of scrap metal have been almost cleaned out, he added.

According to Nierva, they were told to make about 100 steel robots for the Christmas festival. But since the metal parts have almost run out, he said they might end up with just 50.

The robots vary in size and shape. The tallest they have made so far is 10 feet while the smallest is only a foot tall. Almost all of their creations are made from discarded metal and plastic parts which are later painted in metallic gray.

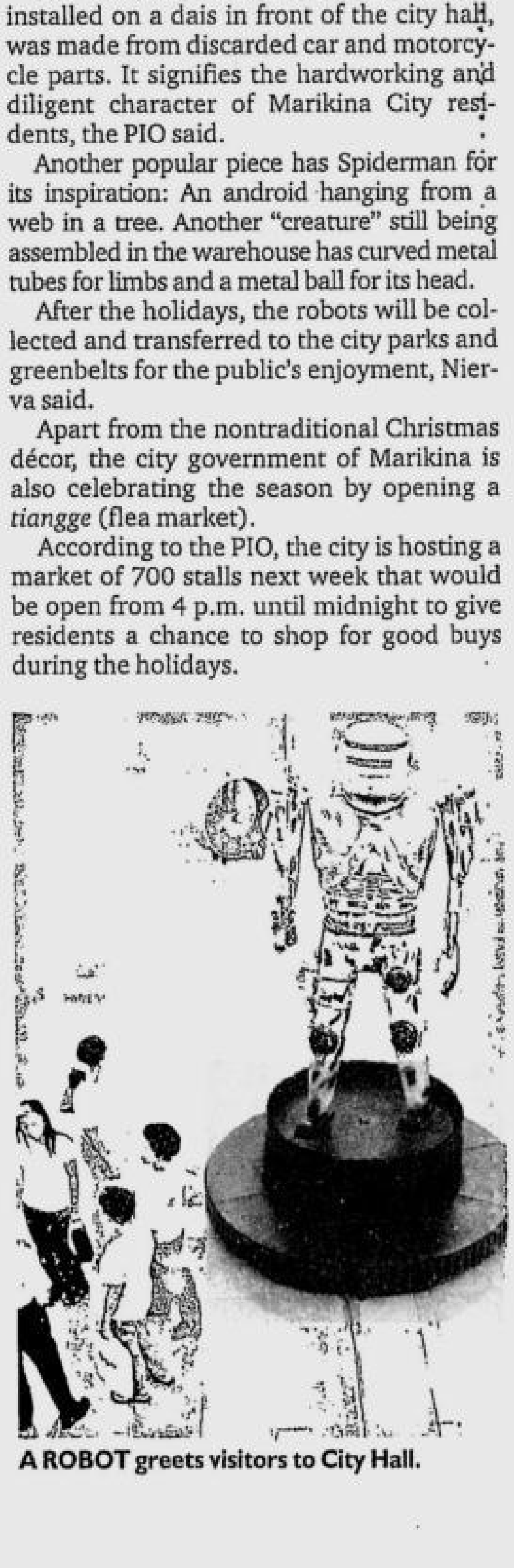
The "Carabot" robot, a futuristic carabao installed on a dais in front of the city hall, was made from discarded car and motorcycle parts. It signifies the hardworking and diligent character of Marikina City residents, the PIO said.

Another popular piece has Spiderman for its inspiration: An android hanging from a web in a tree. Another "creature" still being assembled in the warehouse has curved metal tubes for limbs and a metal ball for its head.

After the holidays, the robots will be collected and transferred to the city parks and greenbelts for the public's enjoyment, Nierva said.

Apart from the nontraditional Christmas décor, the city government of Marikina is also celebrating the season by opening a *tiangge* (flea market).

According to the PIO, the city is hosting a market of 700 stalls next week that would be open from 4 p.m. until midnight to give residents a chance to shop for good buys during the holidays.



A ROBOT greets visitors to City Hall.

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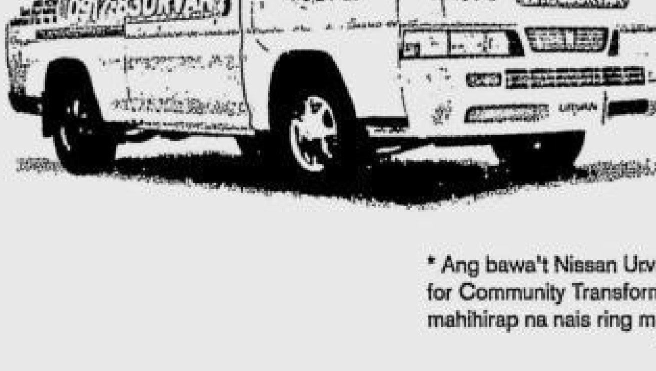

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LEA SALONGA, November 2007

GLOBAL Pinoy
Editor **Gerry Lirio**

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

OFW's eldest kid dies in Bulacan bike crash

Mom in Japan jail can't be reached

By Gian S. Camacho
Contributor

"I am the youngest councilor in Hagonoy. When I graduated last March, I immediately took a different path, a path which others deem as very dirty and gloomy. But I took the risk of offering myself as a part of a long term solution. All the problems which we face at present will need a long planning period, I am one with you in effecting significant changes in our town. I will not squander the trust which was bestowed upon my shoulders by our fellowmen in the recently conducted local elections. I will be very vigilant in doing what can be good for the greater welfare of our people. Ipaglaban ang tama, labanan ang mali."

–JERIC G. CONTRERAS October 2, 2007

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT AFTER FIVE MONTHS of not writing anything for Global Pinoy, my first story would be about the demise of my dear friend, fellow OFW child, and Global Pinoy contributor Jeric Contreras, one of Hagonoy, Bulacan's finest sons.

I first met Jeric one morning in 2003 when I ended up in his block as an irregular student at San Beda College trying to catch up with old courses that I failed to take the past year. Being the literal new kid on the block, I tried to spot a classmate that would best fill the role of orienting me about the courses. The minute Jeric stepped inside the room with almost half the class bugging him about handouts and deadlines, I knew I found my man.

Later that day, I finally managed to initiate our first conversation when I asked him if I could join his group in our college's National Service Training Program and he immediately accepted my request. Years later, he would remind me in jest of that event as "*iyong oras na pinulot kita sa putikan*" (The time I picked you out of the mud).

Over the following weeks, Jeric turned out to be the perfect guide for me. He was very responsible with his studies, always willing to help out peers who were academically lost and obviously enjoyed providing service to whoever needed it. Choosing him as my liberator (from the bewildering experience of a rookie in a block that was then alien to me) proved to be a very good decision.

Things in common

Those first weeks with him evolved into some sort of symbiotic relationship between the two of us. He was the first person I always ran to for class updates and other forms of academic help. I depended on him to survive and to get integrated into my new block.

Eventually, this relationship developed into a bond between two friends. Having so many things in common facilitated the rapid development of our friendship. After spending so much time together, we learned that we can both trace our roots to his hometown Hagonoy, that we both had a parent working abroad, and that we were both part of the high school class of 2002 which we always believed with much bias as better than any other batch.

FULL OF LIFE AND PROMISE: Contreras (fourth from left) receives his Philosophical Research Award at the San Beda graduation rites on March 28.

Aside from our similarities, we had gaping differences too. He was so comfortable mingling with a lot of people while I preferred being with less. Jeric was also known for the power of his charisma. He could effortlessly rally even the most discriminating people to his side while I seemed to always have the tendency to make myself offensive to some people without really meaning to.

Mother arrested, detained

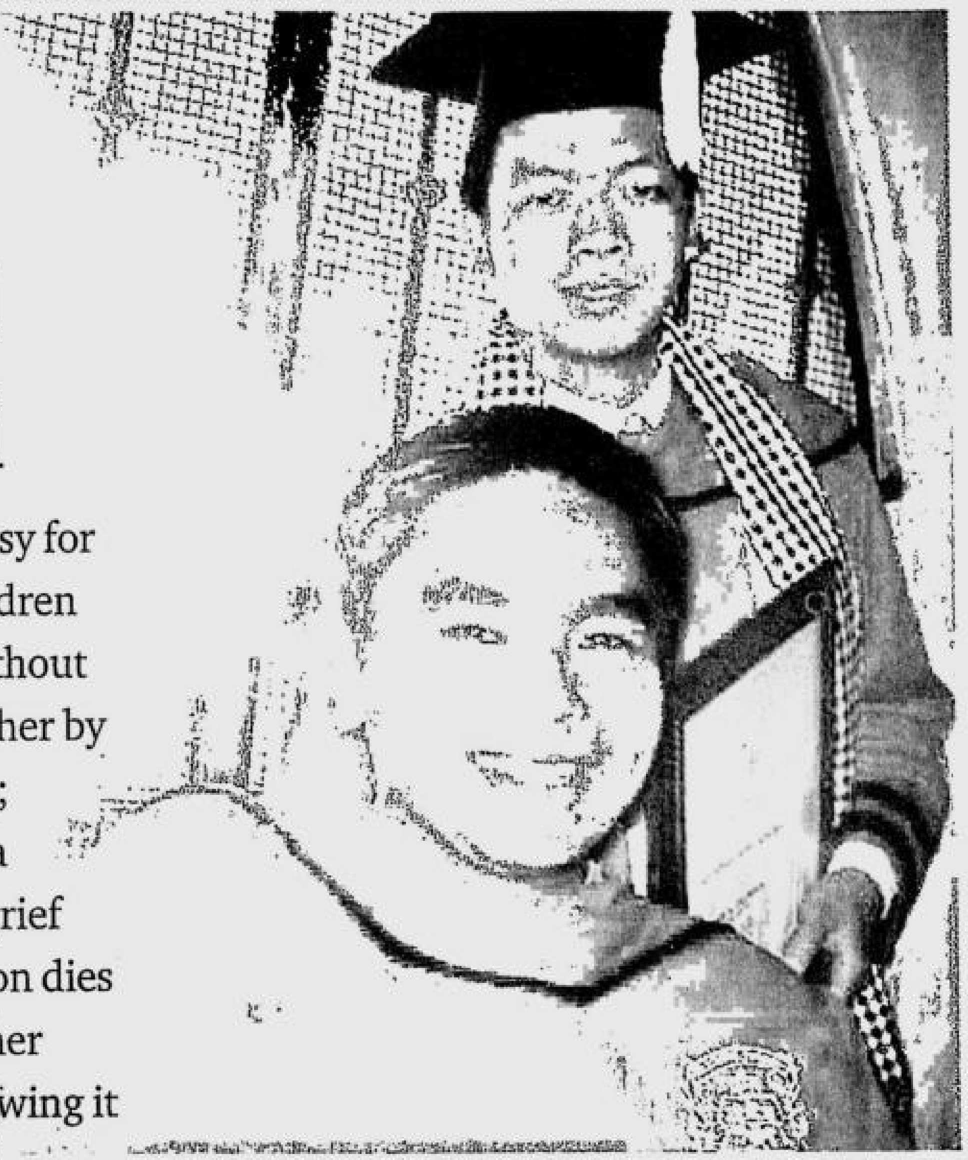
I also admired him for his robot-like qualities when it came to work. Of all the people that I've met in my entire life, he was the best when it came to multi-tasking. He didn't seem to have problems juggling his budding political career and academic life and always had time for carousing with the gang. As for me, I couldn't even make out the difference of time management from my fanny.

However, these differences were also the things that made me closer to Jeric. He stood for a lot of things that were missing in my own life. Jeric was one of the very few people who gave me a semblance of wholeness.

In the latter months of 2005, Jeric began going through an ordeal which tested his fortitude. His mother, an OFW based in Japan, was arrested for overstaying in the country and was sentenced to serve three years in detention. He was very hesitant to share this problem with me at first but eventually spoke up after revealing how heavy his family's predicament was weighing him down. I can still remember how he humorously described to me his emotions as "*parang* container van *na ang bigat pare*" (As heavy as a container van). He was a little embarrassed about his mother's situation so we agreed to just keep it between us.

Life was very hard for Jeric during the first months after his mother's arrest. He got a huge cut from his allowance and had to make do with very little to survive each day in school. On top of that, he had to bear the burden of keeping his problems to himself while maintaining good grades and attending to his responsibilities in and out of school. Being one of the more prominent student leaders in our college, he chose not to openly discuss his mother's situation so he could still keep an air of invulnerability about him.

It's not easy for OFW children to live without their mother by their side; Imagine a family's grief when a son dies without her even knowing it



TIES THAT BIND: Jeric Contreras (standing), with the author, during happier times at the Baccalaureate Mass at the Abbey Church of San Beda College in Mendiola in March.

Graduation

Jeric only started to truly come out of his shell during our internship at INQUIRER last year. When we were first invited to contribute stories for Global Pinoy, Jeric took it as an opportunity to finally reveal his family's tribulations to the world. He wrote about how he was spending Mother's Day away from his mom who was in jail in Japan. Fortunately, the risk which he took in writing the story proved worthwhile. He no longer had to hide his anguish after it was published. The story set him free. It also helped him seek for much-needed assistance regarding his mother's case.

Getting a little respite from his troubles after his stint at INQUIRER, Jeric went back to school for our senior year with renewed fervor.

After our graduation last March, we temporarily went our separate ways. I went to law school while Jeric started a career in public service after being elected as municipal councilor of Hagonoy last May. Though he was planning to go to law school too, he had to delay his legal education for a while because he needed to save enough money for it.

We began seeing each other again sporadically between the months of June and August after I dropped out of law school for personal reasons. Struggling with my situation of being practically a bum, I once again turned on my buddy for support. We eventually resolved to go back to school next year. I saw him for the last time on the 30th of August when I gave him a lift home.

Motorcycle accident

Then came the dreadful call about his death last Wednesday morning. Our classmate rang me at home to ask me if the rumors about Jeric's death were true. I called up Jeric's mobile phone and was answered by his distressed sister. The rumors were true. He died in a motorcycle accident at 2 a.m. that same day while he was on his way to check on a report about a burglary in his neighborhood. He turned 22 only last July 10.

It has been four days since I heard of his death but I still find it hard to accept the reality that one of my most treasured friends is gone. I felt a flurry of emotions. From grief to shock, from shock to disbelief, from disbelief to anger, and from anger to grief again.

Jeric graduated cum laude from San Beda in March earning a BS in Management and Philosophy. I graduated with the same degree with academic distinction. After graduation, we continued writing for Global Pinoy. *(Please see story below)*. Writing about OFWs and their families strengthened our bond because we got to explore our OFW backgrounds together and saw how our similar experiences as OFW children produced a connection between us that can't be found in just any other relationship between friends.

This is my first time to lose a very close friend. The worst part about losing someone dear to your heart is the idea that all the possibilities in your life which involved that person expired along with him. I can no longer look forward to the day when our dream of starring in San Miguel beer commercials will finally come true nor eagerly anticipate the coming of the time when we'll have so much money that we won't need to cheat each other anymore for a smaller share of the bill after drinking sprees. All that are now just memories.

Mother still unaware

Jeric's mother is at present in jail in Japan and is still unaware of what happened to him. The Contreras family is asking for assistance in informing her about Jeric's death and bringing her home immediately.

For any information on Marina Contreras, please e-mail me at g.s.camacho@gmail.com or call his family at 0917-3914503.

Rags to riches: Tricycle driver-turned-chief mate

(Editor's note: This is the last story by the author, a regular Global Pinoy contributor before he died in a motorcycle accident last Wednesday.)

By Jeric G. Contreras
Contributor

BEFORE REACHING THE PEAK of his career as a seafarer, this hard-working man from Hagonoy, Bulacan fondly remembers his good old days using his older brother's dilapidated tricycle just to earn a meager amount of money to finance his studies.

Today, Arturo "Turo" Cabral, 44, works as the chief mate of MV Saga Voyager, a general cargo carrier based in Hong Kong. He functions as the head of the deck department tasked to monitor and evaluate seafarer's performance and productivity belonging to the rank-and-file category. He manages 22 seamen, 19 of whom are Filipinos, while the remaining three are Britons.

"I really never imagined that someday I would be one of the ship's high ranking officials," Cabral told the INQUIRER. "I had experienced all the best and worst of being a seafarer before I reached this status. It took a lot of sacrifices and hardships before I reaped the fruits of labor and hard work."

After earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Transportation from the Philippine Maritime Institute-Manila in 1984, Turo had to wait for more years before he was hired as a utility worker in a manning agency.

"When I received my college diploma, I had to endure what most of the aspiring seamen went through," he said. "I didn't find a job immediately. I literally submitted copies of my curriculum vitae to almost all the shipping agencies in Manila. I had to endure the pain of applying without any big boss or sponsor to back me up and rush my application. I exhausted all means just to be hired."

How career started

While he was hoping for the good news to happen, Cabral was working as a tricycle driver to support the daily needs of his parents and siblings. In 1989, the Task Agencies Inc., in Ermita, Manila hired him as a utility worker for five months.

"I was very happy when I was employed as a utility worker," Cabral said. "The agency was also sending capable seamen abroad. So when I learned about it, I had to impress my manager. After five months of sacrifices, they noticed my performance and they sent me to MT Pacific Jude where I first worked as an ordinary seaman or a mess man."

It was the start of Turo's remarkable career as a seaman. From the lowest level, he did all the wiping, washing and cleaning of the tanker's dirtiest parts which included the ship's toilets.

After a couple of years, his British boss noticed his extraordinary efforts. He was promoted as an able seaman on his second ship MV Melba. In 1996, he took time out to study and aim for a higher career as a ship official. He successfully passed the PRC licensure exam as a third mate, [where he ranked fifth]. He rendered his services as a third mate in MV Bar Orient, a bulk carrier ship.

Family man

In 1998, just two years later, he again passed the licensure exam that made him as a second mate and immediately worked on MV Douglas. And just six years later, he passed the exam which made him a chief mate.

This opportunity allowed Turo to earn and send big bucks to his wife and his six daughters back home. While supporting his immediate family, he also finances the needs of his parents, siblings, nephews, nieces and even his inlaws. He still keeps his feet on the ground despite enjoying life's caprices and pleasures.

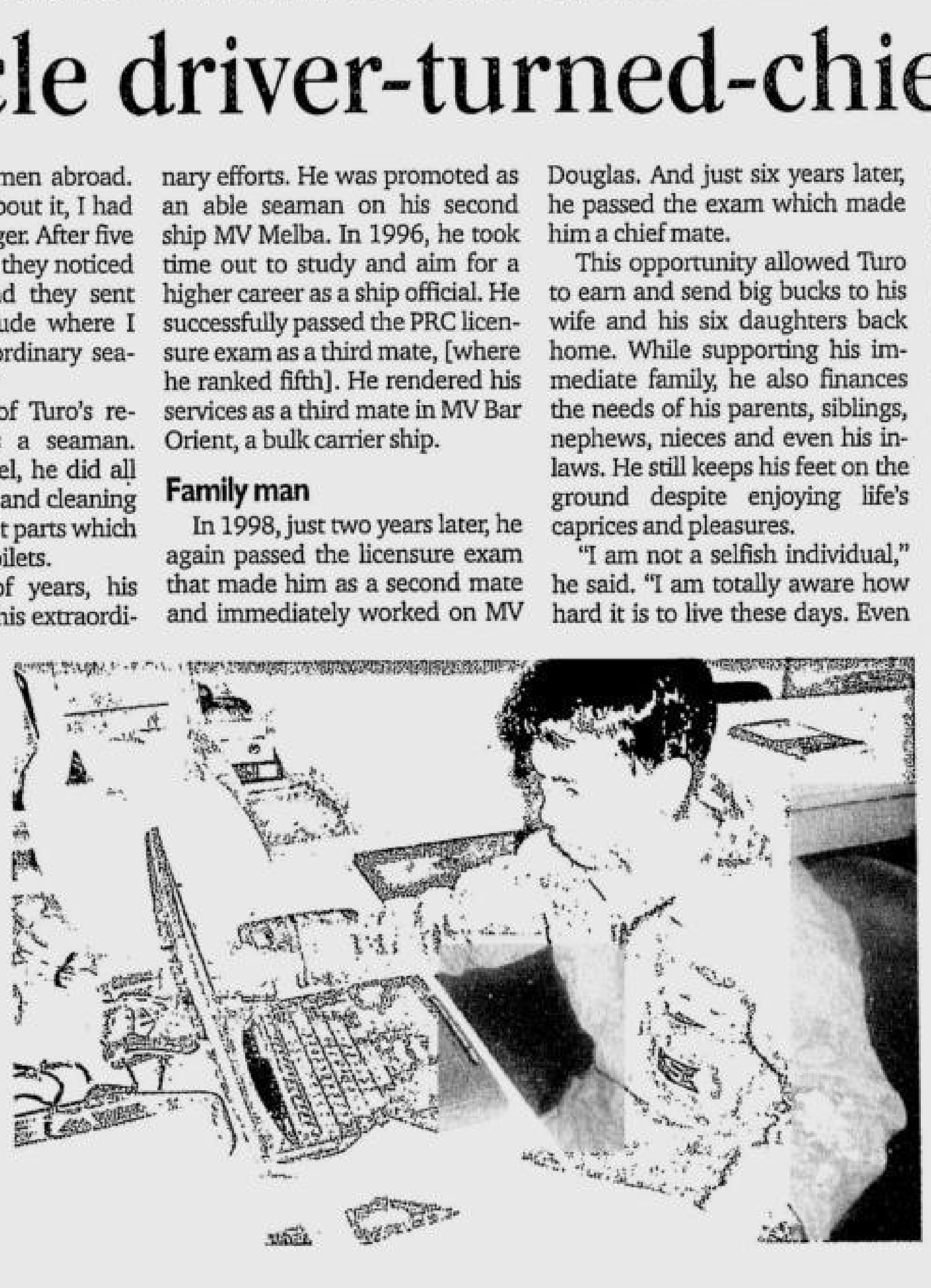
"I am not a selfish individual," he said. "I am totally aware how hard it is to live these days. Even though I have six daughters and a wife to support, it has not crossed my mind not to support my relatives and loved-ones. I am just giving back and sharing my blessings with them."

At present, Turo is enjoying his vacation in the country with his loved ones. Being with his family makes him feel complete and satisfied. He narrates how he longs for the hugs and kisses of his loved ones on board ships that sail around the world.

"If you're going to think of it, earning money makes seamen feel good. But at the end of the day, when you're resting and you're about to sleep, missing your loved ones makes seamen feel bleak," he lamented.

Turo has already bought houses and lots for his daughters. He also decided to limit his working contract on board, which expires every six months.

"Before, I was dreaming of earning money for my family. I tried my best to find a job that would support them. Now that I have saved something for their future, I am finding ways and opportunities to spend quality time with them. I am now fulfilled. I have achieved my goals in life," he said.



ARTURO CABRAL in 1990: He supports his parents, wife and kids, siblings, nephews and nieces, and even his in-laws.

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

B'desh fears thousands killed by cyclone

JHALOKATI, BANGLADESH—BANGLADESH SAID SATURday it feared thousands of corpses were littering its southern coast after the worst cyclone in years tore through the impoverished and low-lying area.

Officials said the army and relief workers were still battling to reach the worst-hit areas, where village after village was flattened when cyclone Sidr smashed into the disaster-prone nation overnight Thursday.

"We are expecting that thousands of dead bodies may be found within a few days," the deputy head of the government's disaster management office, Shekhar Chandra Das, told AFP in the capital Dhaka.

"We have not been able to collect information about casualties in many remote and impassable places due to the disruption to communications," he said.

In many areas, telephone lines are down and roads blocked.

The current confirmed death toll stood at 667. Countless more people have been injured or are homeless.

"We have so far found 667 dead bodies. It is increasing," said Home Ministry official Mahatab Uddin Zamader.

People in Jhalokati, a town and district near the coast and one of the areas that bore the full brunt of the storm, told AFP of their terror as the cyclone smashed their homes with wind speeds of 220-240 kph and torrential rain.

Jhalokati town is 140 km south of Dhaka and close to the coastal Sunderbans area, the world's largest mangrove forest.

"I have never seen such a terrible scene. It was like hell. I saw dozens of tin roofs flying into the air. Whole houses, too," said local businessman Manik Roy, 50.

"About 500 of us were huddled in a shelter in a government office. The windows were shattered and it seemed the whole building was shaking," he added.

Another businessman said sitting out the storm was like experiencing "doomsday."

A district official described Sidr as a "great human tragedy," adding that every one of Jhalokati's 554 villages had been badly hit.

"All the tin-built houses were blown away. Every household in the district has been affected," said deputy commissioner K.M. Rahatul Islam.

Experts described Sidr as similar in strength to the 1991 storm that triggered a tidal wave, killing an estimated 138,000 people. Another cyclone in 1970 killed up to half a million people.

But officials remained optimistic that this time the death toll would be nowhere near that of previous disasters, thanks to a network of cyclone shelters and an early-warning and evacuation system.

"If we had not taken people to the cyclone shelters, tens of thousands of people would have been killed," added Islam.

According to officials, 1.5 million people took refuge in cyclone shelters and other government buildings. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

US envoy gives Musharraf a 'very strong message'

ISLAMABAD—A senior US envoy met Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and key aides Saturday to deliver a "very strong message" for an end to emergency rule, diplomats and officials said. John Negroponte, No. 2 in the US State Department, flew to Islamabad amid signs of growing US concern over the crisis in its key ally in the fight against Islamic militancy. He and military ruler Musharraf discussed the political crisis as well as the situation across the region, a reference to Taliban and al-Qaida unrest, state television reported. Before that, Negroponte met General Ashfaq Kiyani, Pakistan's deputy army chief of staff under Musharraf and chosen successor if he hangs up his uniform as promised. Western diplomats said Negroponte would call on Musharraf to call off the emergency "right away," quit the army, hold elections on time, lift curbs on the media and release political prisoners. The United States sees Pakistan as an essential ally in the fight against al-Qaida and the Taliban but has been signaling its mounting frustration at Musharraf's refusal to lift emergency rule. **AFP**

China calls on Burma to hasten democratic reforms

RANGOON, Burma—China has called on Burma (Myanmar) to speed up democratic reforms, state media reported Saturday, in an unusual move for Beijing which has traditionally refrained from criticizing the country's military junta. China's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi made the call during a two-day meeting with the junta which ended Friday but which the state-controlled New Light of Burma newspaper only reported after the Chinese diplomat had left the country. Yi also expressed support for United Nations-brokered attempts to reconcile the junta and the country's suppressed democracy movement led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, the newspaper reported. China, the junta's main political ally, does not usually publicly criticize Burma's military government, reaffirming its position of strict noninterference in the internal affairs of Burma. But in recent weeks, it has been credited with working behind the scenes to pressure Burma to embrace democratic reforms. **AP**

Iraqi tribal group says US killed its members, not insurgents

BAGHDAD—A tribal group tapped by American forces to root out extremists here said Friday that more than four dozen of its members were killed during US air and ground strikes north of the capital earlier this week. But the US military insisted that the attacks were aimed instead at al-Qaida and had killed 25 of its insurgents. "We had some people on the ground who identified these individuals as bad guys, basically," said Lt. Justin Cole, a spokesperson for the coalition forces. "That's why we engaged. And there is really no change in our posture since then." The attacks were mounted late Tuesday near Taji, a restive town 24 km north of Baghdad, after American forces said they spotted armed men in the area and detected "hostile intent." Helicopters and airplanes strafed buildings, and ground troops later exchanged fire with men who had shot at them, according to the military version of events. Two weapons caches were found that contained, among other things, anti-aircraft machine guns, missiles and a wide array of explosive devices, the military said. Yet Sheik Jasim Zaidan Khalaf, who heads one of the area's American-backed tribal groups, known as an Awakening Council, said the Americans had erred in the attack. The sheik said his council had been active in purging the area of militants belonging to al-Qaida of Mesopotamia, a homegrown Sunni extremist group. **NYT**

Striking Hollywood writers, studios to resume talks

LOS ANGELES—Striking US screenwriters and major film and TV studios agreed on Friday to resume formal contract talks on Nov. 26 as the most serious Hollywood labor confrontation in 20 years dragged into its 12th day. The parties have not met face to face since the strike began with the collapse of last-ditch negotiations that had been urged by a federal mediator, unleashing a flurry of finger-pointing and angry rhetoric that escalated as the dispute neared its third week. A Writers Guild spokesperson confirmed the union's 12,000 members remained on strike. **Reuters**

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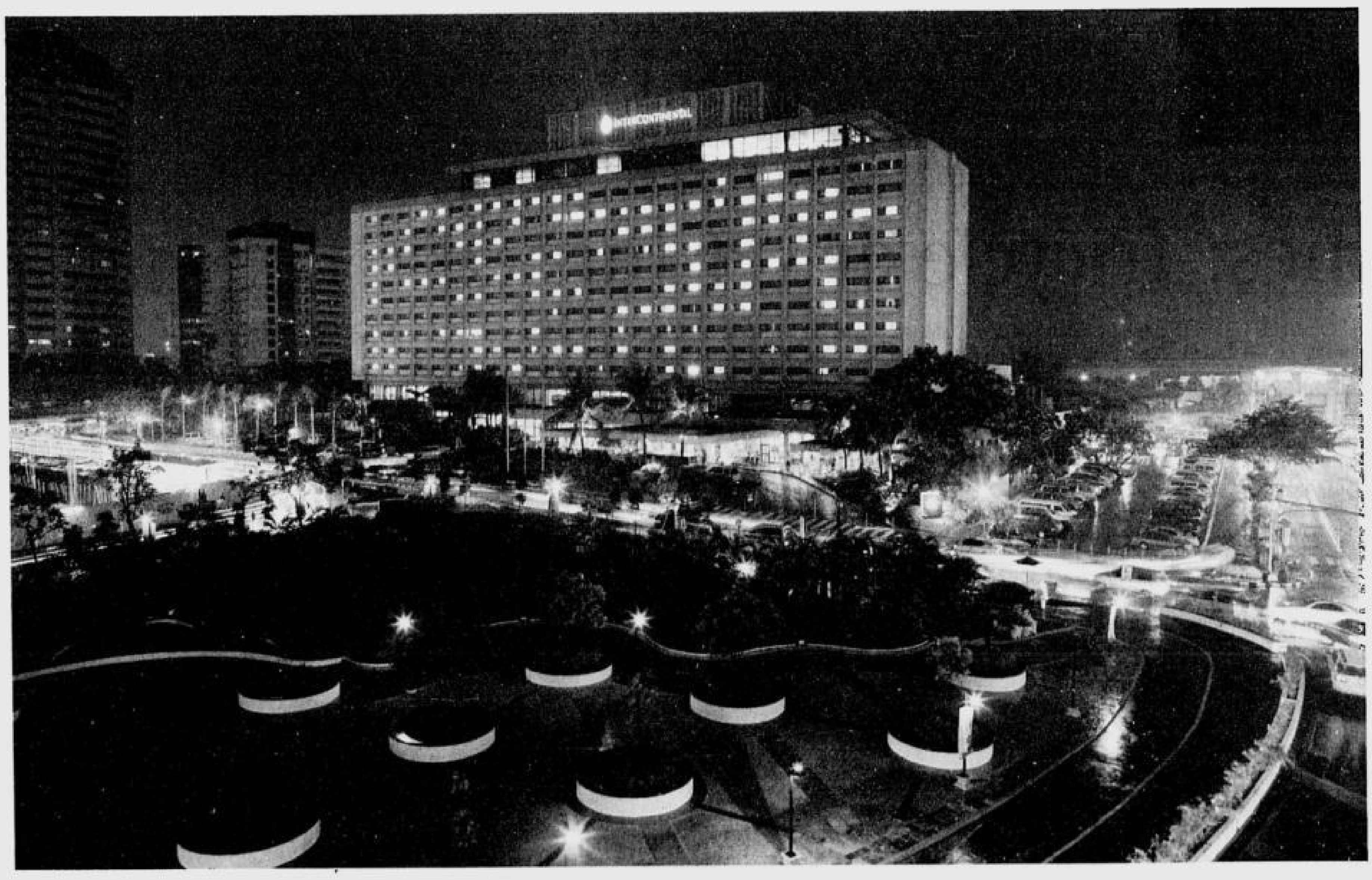

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Even against intense Heat, Celtics refuse to wilt / A26

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Pucay snares Vietnam stop of Asean golf / A24

Harbour routs San Mig; Mail and More triumphs

ALLEN Aguada (left) and Kevin Dalafu (right) of San Mig Coffee chase a loose ball as Jorel Canizares of Harbour Centre looks on. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES TUESDAY (*Rizal Memorial Stadium*)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Mail and More
4 p.m.—Hapee vs Toyota Balintawak

By Jasmine W. Payo

A WELL-PREPARED HARBOUR CENTRE squad overwhelmed San Mig Coffee, 86-63, yesterday to keep second place in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup at The Arena in San Juan.

Starters Rico Maierhofer, Dylan Ababou and Fil-American Solomon Mercado orchestrated a strong first half that led to a wide early Harbour lead at 44-23 and boosted the Batang Pier's record to 5-1 behind unbeaten Hapee.

"We practiced their plays for Bonbon (Custodio) and all the other plays of (San Mig); it worked for us," said coach Jorge Gallent. "We started strong, but the good point about it is we maintained the lead unlike in the past games where we relaxed when we got up by 15 or 20."

Batang Pier banked on a 16-2 run capped by back-to-back triples from Ababou in the second period to stretch a 24-18 lead to 20 points, 40-20.

Maierhofer paced the balanced charge with 13 points and 12 rebounds, while TY Tang also contributed 13 markers and six assists.

In the second game, Khiel Misa drained a key triple with 59 seconds left as Mail and More streaked to its third straight triumph with an 80-77 decision over winless Bacchus.

But it was Marcy Arellano who carried the resurgent squad with an impressive 22 points, eight rebounds and seven assists.

"We know we can't [just] pounce on Bacchus, they're a good team; we really had to dig deep in our arsenal," said Comets coach Allan Gregorio.

Aside from recovering from its first setback, 77-76, against Hapee, Harbour Centre secured a Pool A spot in the next round of the eliminations.

The top three teams in the first round will be clustered in Pool A to fight for the two outright semifinal berths, while the bottom teams will be relegated in Pool B to battle for the last three quarterfinal seats.

Mail and More also remained in the running for a Pool A slot after rebounding from a three-game losing skid to join Toyota Balintawak at 3-3.

Custodio, averaging 17 points as the league's leading scorer, could only muster

HARBOUR/ A25

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Steady Lascuña ties for 29th

HONG KONG—TONY LASCUÑA shot another two-under-par 68 Saturday to remain in the forefront among four Filipinos who survived the halfway cut in the $2.25 million UBS Hong Kong Open where Sweden's Robert Karlsson remained in front by four strokes after three rounds.

Lascuña, who is playing in the World Cup of Golf with Gerald Rosales next week at Mission Hills in Shenzen, China, stood at five-under 205 in a tie for 29th place with nine others. He had earlier rounds of 68-69.

Frankie Miñoza (70) and Juvic Pagunsan (71) fell farther back at 208 while Rosales was two strokes behind at 210 after a 71.

Karlsson never looked back on his four-shot overnight advantage, shooting a 66 with four birdies on the front nine to stay out in front against a star-studded field at 16-under-par 194.

The 38-year-old's only bogey—his first of the tournament—came at the 9th hole, but it

STEADY/ A25

'Z' gets shot at crown

Z "THE DREAM" Gorres will battle former world champion Vic Darchinyan in a 12-round final eliminator on Feb. 2 next year in Cebu City.

This was confirmed yesterday by Gorres' manager Michael Aldeguer, who said his camp has already signed the contract yesterday for the fight to take place in the Philippines.

"We're looking at a big venue like the Cebu City Sports Complex or the posh Waterfront Cebu City Hotel for the figh," stressed Aldeguer.

Darchinyan and his team had earlier vowed to bring the fight to Australia, but apparently, the consortium they had been talking about could not match the offer put forth by Aldeguer and his group.

"We were going to go to purse bids and bid for it, but after discussions the money is a huge factor as well, and we were made a very good offer," Elias Nasser, Darchinyan's manager, was quoted by Sportsnut as saying.

Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor

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-Jason Ang, contributor, Manila Bulletin, August 31 2007

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-James Deakin, host, Counterflow, NU107

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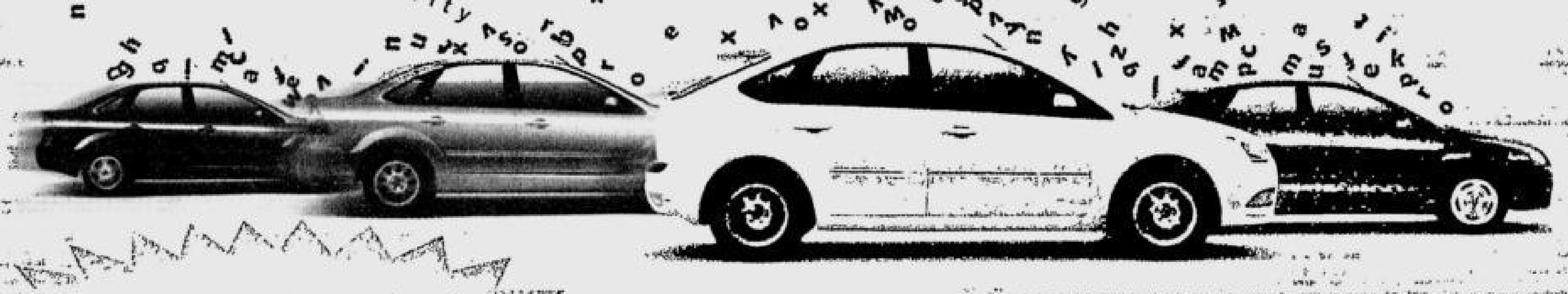
-Andre Palma, columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer, August 22 2007

"The new Ford Focus does not fail to excite me everytime I drive it."
-Louie Ysmael, restaurateur, NUVO

"The Ghia 1.8L sedan has the full nine yards."
-Tito Hermoso, editor, C! Magazine. Business World, August 29 2007

"This car pretty much lives up to the hype."
-Dong Magsajo, editor, The Philippine Star, September 28 2007

"The new Ford Focus is surprisingly fast, with the 1.8L engine as the new entry level and the Turbo Diesel at the top of the range."
-Dominic Ochoa, Celebrity



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Pucay snares Vietnam stop of Asean golf

HO CHI MINH CITY—Filipino Mars Pucay rallied with a two-under-par 70 Sunday and won his second tournament on the inaugural Asean Golf Tour by ruling the Mercedes-Benz Championship Vietnam by one stroke at the Vietnam Golf and Country Club.

Pucay, who won the Philippine leg at Malarayat last month, finished with a 72-hole total of 283 to nip Thailand's Pijit Petchakasem, who closed with another 70 for 284.

The victory worth $8,200 for Pucay came on the heels of Angelo Que's triumph in Singapore last week as the Filipinos asserted their mastery of the sport in the region.

Filipino Felix (Cassius) Casas matched par 72 and tied Thai Nakul Vichitryuthasastr, for third place at 285. Nakul, the third-round leader, carded a 73.

The 36-year-old Pucay also topped the Pantechs PGAP Invitational at Mt. Malarayat in Lipa City at the expense of Casas in June.

Top Filipino amateur Jay Bayron also shot a 72 to finish in a deadlock for sixth at 287 with Malaysia's Khor Kheng Hwai.

Louie Dacudao (72) finished 11th at 292, Joenard Rates (73) wound up at 297, while Orlan Sumcad (76) and Marvin Dumandan (71) tied at 298. *With a report from Jong Arcano*

Leading final-round scores:

283—**Mars Pucay (RP)** 69-72-72-70; 284—Pijit Petchakasem (Tha) 70-75-69-70; 285—**Felix Casas (RP)** 71-74-68-72; Nakul Vichitryuthasastr (Tha) 70-71-71-73; 286—Namchok Tantipokhakul (Tha) 75-74-69-68; 287—**Jay Bayron (RP-a)** 69-75-71-72; Khor Kheng Hwai (Mal) 71-75-68-73; 290—Hyunh Van Son (Vie-a) 69-74-74-73; Pornpong Phatlum (Tha) 77-72-68-73; 291—Pol Kimmarat (Tha) 69-75-72-75; 292—**Louie Dacudao (RP)** 73-76-71-72.

MARS PUCAY: Two victories in four tournaments of the inaugural Asean Golf Tour.
ROGER MARGALLO

Docs unite to care for RP athletes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR SPORTS Medicine (PCSM), after all, will be on top of the food and nutritional needs of Filipino athletes in next month's Southeast Asian Games in Thailand.

Three doctors from the Philippine Sports Commission's medical arm will lead the team tasked to oversee the health and nutrition of the national contingent seeing action in the Games set Dec. 6-16.

Doctors Tisha Dizon, Marion Rivera and Randy Molo will lead the PCSM staff. They will work hand in hand with the medical personnel put up by the Philippine Olympic Committee which earlier revamped its committee headed by PCSM chief Dr. Jose Raul Canlas.

Canlas drew the POC's ire after he and nutritionist and dietician Sanny Rose Orbeta, didn't recommend to the PSC the hiring of United States-based nutritionists Aaron Lloyd Parnell and Bryan Shamp, endorsed by POC president Peping Cojuangco himself.

PSC chair Butch Ramirez said they had no choice but to put their men on the top of the medical team "because of accountability" to the 400-plus national athletes.

Canlas nevertheless assured that his team will cooperate with the POC-appointed medical team headed by Dr. Sonny Odulio of the Philippine Orthopedic Institute.

SPORTSWATCH

6th WCSA tilt starts at Assumption gym

THE WOMEN'S COLLEGES SPORTS ASsociation (WCSA) recently opened its sixth season at the new gymnasium of host Assumption College.

Other participating schools are Miriam College, College of the Holy Spirit Manila, La Consolacion College Manila and Philippine Women's University. Assumption president Sr. Gertrude Borres, RA, declared the tournament open while St. Scholastica president Sr. Angelica Leviste, OS, and Miriam president Dr. Patricia Licuanan led the ceremonial toss. WCSA adviser is Vivian Manila.

CJH to use Subair System

CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB (CJHGC) embarks on a project that will finally put an end to the water management problems that has been bugging its par 69 course.

According to general manager Jeric Hechanova, CJHGC is set to install the Subair System—an aeration and moisture removal system which will act as a vacuum and drainage pipe network to increase the rate by which water is moved from the surface and down through the soil. Augusta National is among those using Subair.

Beltran stays as prexy

THE PHILIPPINE STAR'S NELSON BELtran was reelected unopposed as president of the PBA Press Corps (PBAPC) Friday night.

It was Beltran's fourth term as PBAPC president, javing held the post in 1997, 1998 and 2006.

Bandera's Barry Pascua and People's Journal's Zean Macamay were elected as vice presidents; Daily Tribune's Arman Carandang secretary; Ang Pilipino Star Ngayon's Mae Balbuena treasurer and Manila Bulletin's Waylon Galvez auditor.

Jalandoni top driver

JED JALANDONI, A 19-YEAR-OLD STUdent of De La Salle-College of St. Benilde, emerged the 5th TRS-C! Magazine Top Driver Challenge champion recently at the Subic International Raceway.

Jalandoni, a native of Bacolod, stood out from the five finalists and qualified for the Ford Focus Novice Cup set on Nov. 23-24 organized by Tuason Racing School (TRS) at the Subic Festival of speed.

NBC-Spring cagers win again

JOHOR, MALAYSIA—THE NBC-Spring Cooking Oil Selection remained in contention in the 2007 Johor Invitational basketball tournament Friday by dumping Singapore-Home United, 90-71, at the Larkin indoor stadium here.

Nino Marquez led five Filipinos who scored in double figures as they bounced back from a 75-87 loss to Malaysia's national team the other day.

"I told the boys to forget our loss to Malaysia," said coach Boysie Zamar. "We have to concentrate on our remaining games to earn a shot at the title."

Zamar's boys have to hurdle Indonesia Basketball League's Aspac and China-Parklane to advance to the finals.

NBC-Spring, bankrolled by NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Spring Cooking Oil and supported by Armando Quibod's Montana Pawnshop, Malabon City Mayor Tito Oreta, Sulpicio Lines and official outfitter Champion Sportswear; led from start to finish as Marquez exploded for 17 points.

Supporting Marquez were Dondon Villamin with 16 points, Nani Epondulan (14), Ronald Lamocha (13) and Henry Fernandez (13).

In the other game, Malaysia boosted its record to 3-0 by whipping China-Parklane, 88-77. NBC-Spring is tied for second with Singapore at 2-1, followed by Hong Kong and China (1-2) and Indonesia (0-3).

The scores:

NBC-Spring (90)—Marquez 17, Villamin 16, Epondulan 14, Lamocha 13, Fernandez 13, Quibod 7, De Castro 4, Capobres 4, Reyes 2, Napo 0.

Singapore (71)—Pathman 21, Koon 14, Falkop 10, Hoong 9, Ren 5, Derek 5, Heng 3, Jason 3, Yun 1, Ning 0.

Quarterscores: 20-15, 43-34, 62-49, 90-71

Hope, PCHS fives storm ahead

CO-LEADERS PHILIPPINE CULtural High School and Hope Christian High School downed separate foes in the basketball competition of the 10th Metropolitan Amateur Sports Association held recently at the PCHS gym in Manila.

The defending champion PCHS Seagulls whipped Philippine Institute of Quezon City, 93-78, as they sustained the form they showed in a 54-40 victory over St. Jude Catholic School two weeks ago.

Hope squeaked past MGC New Life Christian Academy, 59-57, to keep pace with PCHS at 2-0. It also beat Sakya, 75-60 during the Nov. 10 inaugurals with Magnolia coach Siot Tanquicen, a PCHS alumnus, as special guest.

Emilio Gan, PCHS principal and MASA chair, opened the six-week long sportsfest dominated by PCHS last year.

Other events on tap are volleyball, table tennis, badminton, chess and athletics. Cheer dance will be introduced for the first time in the event.

St. Jude rebounded from an opening day setback by beating Philadelphia, 69-34. Another winner last week was Sakya, which beat Makati Hope, 72-38.

Members of the Masa Management Committee are Hector Chua and Arthur Tong of PCHS, Stevenson Tiu and Bernard Yang of Hope, Jerrecho Pituk and Ronald Gaguchay of Makati Hope, Sherwin Tiu and George Ong of St. Jude, Johnson Barison of MGHC New Life, Joseph Sy and Eric Miranda of Sakya, Ricky Chua of Philadelphia, Richard Sozon and Mar Ongsiaco of PIQC.

Horacio Lim is the basketball commissioner. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Casimiro seeks ROK seniors

MIKE CASIMIRO OF 02KART RACing Team bagged the ROK Seniors crown recently in the Thailand Grand Prix 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship at the Saraburi Circuit.

The victory virtually assured Casimiro the overall Asian ROK Seniors championship as he now has a total of 80 points, a big 45-point lead over Macau karters Mak Ka Lok and Paulo Batalha who are tied with 35 points apiece.

Casimiro, who saw action in the ROK World Cup in Lonato, Italy, is also set to capture the overall ROK Seniors crown today in the championship leg of the Shell Helix Super Karting Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Casimiro, being supported by Natmo Asia Construction, Drueco Auto Supply, and Casimiro Development Corp., emerged second in the qualifying time trials.

Casimiro posted the fastest laptime of 59.514 seconds and turned back Thai favorite Parut Penpayap by a one-lap margin, clocking 22 minutes and 6.703 seconds.

CASIMIRO: Hot streak

Arenas big hit in Cyberspace

ARENAS

GILBERT ARENAS of the Washington Wizards is hitting the Net with a bang. On court, Agent Zero is already an accomplished attacker of the net. Off court, the Spalding spokesperson has been busy on the Net.

Spalding reported that its Never Flat Behind the Scenes Video on YouTube featuring Arenas and Vince Young, National Football League's (NFL) Tennessee Titan Offensive Rookie of the Year, has generated more than 15,000 views in its first day of posting.

The video shows the shoot of Spalding's latest commercial, a Technology Handoff that highlights the Never Flat technology transfer from the NBA to American football.

The Never Flat technology allows Spalding to produce balls that last much longer. An ordinary ball deflates in six to eight weeks, but Never Flat, available at ProLine stores, lasts for a year without re-inflation.

Bakbakan finals at Pasig Square

THE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND OF THE NFGB Bakbakan National 10-stag derby sizzles today at the Pasig Square Garden.

Due to the record 1,463 entries, the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) has lined up the following final rounds: Nov. 20 and 22 at Araneta for those with 4 and 4.5 points and Nov. 24 and 26 at Makati Coliseum for those with 5 points. Those with 5, 5.5 and 6 points will tangle on Nov. 27 at Araneta.

The leaders, with perfect scores of six wins each, are Rommel Calalang, Noli Monares and Jeff Pagcanlungan of Bulacan, Ayong Lorenzo of Rizal, Ferdie Buensalida of Batangas, Gengen Arayata and Charlie Hao of Bicol, Boy Uy and Peping Chan of Rizal, Alex Ty of Cagayan, Raymond Turla and Ricky Dagohoy of Mindanao, Gerry Ramos of GF-BAN, engineer Oyo of Zabong group headed by JV Magsaysay, Bernie Tacoy and Edwin Panta of Eastern Visayas and Dr. Wilson Du of Bohol.

NFGB president Ricoy Palmares Jr. predicts a thrilling battle for the Bakbakan title.

ATENEO CHESSFEST: The 2nd Dr. Jose P. Leviste Sr. Under-2050 Open Non-Master Active Chess Cup was held recently at the Ateneo de Manila University. The event was supported by Joey Leviste of Mirant Philippines. From left are NCFP director Dr. Jenny Mayor, Ateneo University Athletics Office's Jose Capistrano, winner Gabriel Layugan, Jose P. Leviste Jr., QC Councilor Ariel Inton, Ding Amparo and IM Idelfonso Datu.

Empire King San Mig race favorite

By Musong R. Castillo

MULTI-TITLED EMPIRE KING SETS OUT AS the prohibitive choice today in the centerpiece San Miguel Classic race of the 12th Marho Breeders Cup Racing Festival at the Santa Ana Park in Makati.

The six-year-old chestnut horse, who will be piloted by JM Ladiana, slugs it out with six other noted chargers in the P2 million race spread over the back-breaking 2,050-meter distance where the winner brings home P1.2 million. Post time is 8:30 p.m.

Formidable stayer Sound of Silence and couple Eye Candy, entries from the crack Hermie Esguerra stables, loom as the likely challengers. Jeff Zarate and Val Dilema will handle Sound of Silence and Eye Candy, respectively.

Native Land (Jessie Guce), Batong Silyar (John Cordero), Special Edition (Dominador Borbe) and former Triple Crown leg winner Mr. Victory (RC Tanagon) round out the field.

Royal Family and Unopposed lead the entries in the Juvenile Fillies and Colts races.

Jonathan Hernandez steers Royal Family, who battles Arithmetic (Patty Dilema), Queen Elena (Zarate), Prying Eyes (Louie Balboa) and Speed Madonna (Ferdinand Raquel) in the chase for the P550,000 champion's prize.

Hernandez will also be aboard Unopposed in the Colts' race, where a total of P800,000 will be up for grabs. The activities start at 2 p.m. with the seven other races in the program carrying prizes of at least P160,000 each.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Cash Mc Call (5), Ambot Sa Imo (4), Something Silver (3), Gelay's Charm (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Kalookan's Pride (1), Playmaker (2), So Gorgeous (4), Ilocos Pride (3)
Race 3—(Tri)—Royal Family (2), Arithmetic (1), Speed Madonna (5)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Run Like D'Wind (6), Blue Sheikh (1), Jigsaw Star (4), Money for Rap (5)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Unopposed (1), Don Enrico (7), He's the Man/Tall Wind (2), Northstorm (8)
Race 6—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Runnin Rebel (9), Macedonian (3), Control Freak (1), Pernicious (11), Sharp Cookie (6), Ultra Rose (2)
Race 7—Es Twenty Six (3), Treasured Ack (4)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Gunszup (5), Litupwithdiamonds (8), Highchairconfusion (9), Lady Cugat (6), Flying Jojie (13)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Golden Sutter/Pacman (4), Legendary (6), Music King (1), One Man's Soul (2)
Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—Quant Je Puis (3), From This Moment (4), Tiger Rafly (7), Strong Boy (5)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Bumble Bee (1), Tiger Song (2), Don Paolo (6), Million Dollar (4)
Race 12—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Material World (13), Spectacular Play (12), Mojito (1), Zoe's Lass (2), Golden Connection (4), Body shot (5)

RP squad's Singapore stint allays fears

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

BUSINESSMAN Arben Santos, reacting to an item in this column, called the other day to say that he would have to decline his nomination as PBA commissioner.

Arben, who also manages the Ateneo PBA players, explained that his health and age are not up to the stress involved in running a league like the PBA.

Arben added that he had just had a heart bypass some months ago, in addition to turning 60.

Just before he called, I received a text message from Arben, saying that he was declining the nomination because he could not serve nine masters at a time. He was, of course referring to the nine PBA ballclubs.

"I have only one master and that is my wife Celda," Arben added.

He said the message, which was supposed to be for an old chum, was wrongly sent.

* * *

The five-day stint in Singapore where the Harbour-RP team swept all its four games against the Singapore national team, a US navy and European squad, and the Australian Slingers, have allayed the apprehensions of RP coach Junel Baculi and team manager Mikee Romero.

Mikee said the all-pro Slingers gave them the most difficult time.

"We were in the land of the giants. It was like playing against an NBA team. The Australians' average height was 6-7, as against our 6-2. Their center was 6-11. The Filipinos were initially stunned because of their height, *natambakan agad tayo* by 20 points," Mikee related.

But the nationals didn't lose heart and patience. Slowly, they whittled off the huge lead until they leveled the score about a minute before the final buzzer.

"Imagine, our point guard Al Vergara was only up to the chest of the guy he was guarding. We were dwarfed by the Australians. This game proved that we could win against giants with mere heart and perseverance."

* * *

According to Mikee, most of the Filipinos watching that day were so touched by the victory that they cried, "even if it was only a tune-up game."

"The addition of PBL Harbour Centre point guard Al Vergara and Ateneo's Chris Tiu made the big difference. We'll even be stronger with the inclusion of Fil-Am Gabe Norwood," Mikee said.

Harbour's Jason Castro so impressed the Australians that they immediately offered him a two-year contract to join the team.

If ever, Mikee said he will not stand in the way of progress.

* * *

Melissa Sison Jacob, the third Fil-Am to beef up the RP women's cage team, arrived in Manila the other day.

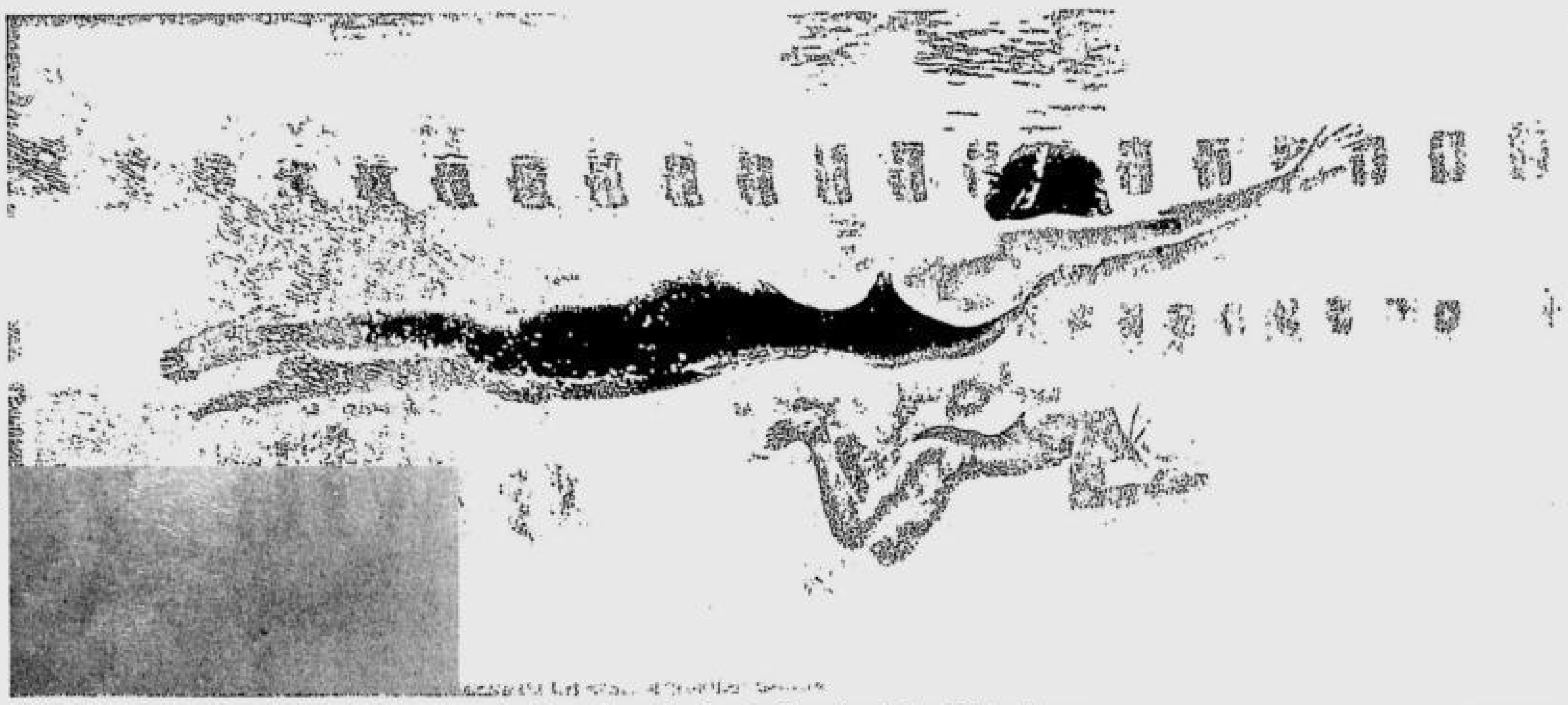
The 5-9 Melissa can play the 1 and 2 positions but is at her best at the point.

She can shoot too. She can create her own shots and can score from long range.

The initial report is, she is as good as advertised.

Melissa and the two other Fil-Ams, Amira Issa and Vicky Brick, will display their wares against the All-Star team of the Filipino Indian Basketball League in an exhibition game at 5 p.m. today at the Adidas Sports Kamp at The Fort.

According to FIBL commissioner Dilip Budhrani, the Indian ambassador will be there to watch the game.



SWIMMERS get going during their heats at the Trace Aquatics Sports Complex in Los Baños, Laguna.

RAFFY LERMA

Medal Tally	G	S	B
Manila	29	16	12
Quezon City	22	20	12
Laguna	17	22	15
Cavite	13	19	18
Lipa City	11	10	8
La Union	10	3	7
GenSan	9	8	7
Zamboanga	9	4	8
Baguio	8	10	9
Iloilo Prov	8	12	15
Negros Occ	7	5	4
Marikina	7	3	10
Capiz	7	3	0
Iloilo City	6	1	4
P. Princesa	5	1	1
Naga	4	4	6
Davao City	4	2	2
Bulacan	4	1	3
C. De Oro	4	2	6
Pangasinan	3	2	3
Antique	3	2	2
Valenzuela	3	2	1
Makati	3	1	1
Pasig City	2	6	7
Las Piñas	2	6	3
Rizal	2	4	4
Batangas	2	2	0
Angeles	2	1	5
Lucena	2	1	2

OLYMPIC FESTIVAL

FEU runners boost Manila

By June Navarro

PROMISING RUNNERS FROM FAR Eastern University carried Manila to the track and field title on the final day of athletics yesterday in the 2nd Philippine Olympic Festival national championships.

Sprinter Romnick Herida, long distance runner Christopher Ulboc and hurdles specialist Charlie Ducusin capped Manila's dominance by sweeping the rest of their events at the Rizal Memorial oval.

After topping the 100-meter and 400m dash, Herida added the 200m for boys' 18-19 years old to his medal collection before leading off Manila's triumphant run in the 4x400m relay.

Herida, 19, outsteadied FEU teammate Romulo Mustoles in the 200m after clocking 22 seconds flat. Mustoles, who also hails from La Union like Herida, was a close second at 22.1 with Janson Lacanlale of Angeles City taking the bronze in 23.2.

Ducusin also achieved a quadruple-gold feat along with Christopher Ulboc after by helping Manila win in the 4x400m and 4x100m relay following his impressive victories in the 110m and 400m hurdles.

Ulboc, a prized find from Tangub City, Misamis Occidental, lorded it over in the 10,000 and 1500 after earlier triumphs in the 3,000 steeplechase and 5,000m run.

Ulboc finished the lung-busting 10,000m in 33:10.1, almost three minutes ahead of Laguna's Jake Reyes, who timed 36:01.1. Iloilo's Noli Bert Sibonga took the bronze in 37:17.1.

With former RP team coach Jojo Posadas and FEU head coach Rosito Andaya guiding them, the Tamaraws accounted for 22 of Manila's pacesetting 29 gold medals in the overall race. Quezon City was second with 22 golds, 20 silvers and 12 bronzes.

Manila, the National Capital Region qualifying games champion, also has 16 silvers and 12 bronzes on the penultimate day of the week-long event hosted by the Philippine Sports Commission and supported by Globe, Accel, Asia Brewery, Pagcor, AMA, Negros Navigation and Creativity Lounge.

Other gold medal winners for Manila were Hazel Pena (pole vault) and Charito Bajuyo (high jump girls 17 and under).

Airen Rodriguez's victories in the girls' shotput and hammer throw led Cavite's final-day onslaught of nine gold medals.

Aldrin Kurt Douglas (10,000m walk for boys' 17 and under), Edgar Bardel (10,000m walk for boys' 18-19), Vanessa Magpili (girls' javelin throw), Marvin Lupinario (boys' long jump), Sharon Boruangga (girls' high jump), April Pedroso (girls' 10,000m walk) and Jeramie Benavente (girls' shot put) accounted for the other Cavite golds.

In swimming, Krestia Angela Lacson of Negros Occidental and Quezon City's Louise Sarmiento pocketed their fifth gold of the competition.

Lacson, 18, reigned supreme in the 800m freestyle for girls' 15-16 years old while Sarmiento dominated the same event in the 17 and over category at the Trace Aquatics Center in Los Baños, Laguna.

Philippine
Olympic
Festival
2007

Harbour...

From page A23

four points for the Coffee Kings on a poor 1-of-7 shooting in 22 minutes.

San Mig Coffee absorbed its third straight loss for a 2-4 card, while Bacchus skidded to its sixth straight setback.

The scores:

First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 86—Maierhofer 13, Tang 13, Mercado 12, Ababou 12, Asoro 8, Gaco 8, Taylor 5, Vergara 4, Gonzales 3, Cañizares 2, Dizon 2, Malabanan 2, Gamboa 2, Jahnke 0, Fernandez 0.

SAN MIG COFFEE 63—Dela Peña 13, Angeles 12, Dalafu 8, Pascual 8, Rañeses 7, Del Rosario 6, Arao 4, Custodio 3, Aguada 2, Luanzon 0, Bolocon 0, Sorongon 0, Magpayo 0, Saldua 0.

Quarters: 24-18, 44-23, 59-36, 86-63

Second Game

MAIL AND MORE 80—Arellano 22, David 17, Misa 11, Santos 8, Gregorio 7, Bauzon 6, Bonus 3, Canlas 2, Masbang 2, Ballesteros 2, Co 0, White 0, Baracael 0.

BACCHUS 77—Llagas 17, Cagoco 13, Thiele 12, Guevarra 11, Martinez 10, Dela Cruz 5, Williams 5, Mendoza 3, Raymundo 2, Mondragon 0, Labagala 0.

Quarters: 21-7, 41-28, 56-51, 80-77

Steady...

From page A23

was a blip in an otherwise relentless display of golf that left him on 16 under par going into the final round here.

Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez moved into second place as he also shot five birdies in a 66 to sit at 12 under par.

South Korea's KJ Choi was one further back after shooting a 65 which included six birdies. He was joined by India's Shiv Kapur and Australia's Marcus Fraser, who both shot 65, and Australia's Marcus Fraser, who scored 64.

Mike Weir, the 2003 US Masters Champion, stayed in contention with a 67 to lie 10 under par.

China's top player and Asian Tour money leader Liang Wen-chong strengthened his hopes of taking the Order of Merit title as a solid round of 68 left him at eight under par for the tournament but a long way off Karlsson's lead. *AFP*

Son helps Hector live out old dream

HECTOR CALMA NEVER HAD THE chance to live out his original childhood dream, one that would have literally given him a glimpse of life in the fast lane.

Nowadays, the retired basketball great has his hands—literally and figuratively—all over that dream.

"When I was young, I wanted to become a race car driver," admitted Calma.

His 11-year-old son, Andres, is allowing him to live out that dream.

Andres Calma is one of the country's promising young karters and Hector, whose closest brush with speed was when he directed many a clinical fastbreak finish for San Miguel in the 80's during his basketball prime, has lent his support to his son's passion.

And whether he is at the stands or greasing up his hands at the pit lane, Hector is always left in awe of his son's demeanor during races.

"*Parang naglalaro lang siya* (It's like he's just playing)," said Hector. "*Hindi siya* affected *kung manalo o matalo man siya* (It doesn't matter whether he wins or loses). *Hindi sumasama ang loob niya pag natatalo.* (He doesn't feel bad if he loses). He's happy with what he's doing."

Of course, Hector shares in the thrill of victory: Just recently, father and son celebrated Andres' victory in the Formula SL Class Novice category in a karting tournament.

And Calma, in a moment of throwback to his childhood dream, has tried out the sport.

In the many occasions he has raced with his son or at least watched him fill his youthful need for speed, the man called as "The Director" was amazed.

"It's quite difficult," he said of racing. You should have fast reflexes and inner strength. *Hindi ito katulad ng* slalom (It's not like slalom). *Talagang gitgitan kayo* (You're really squeezing up against each other)."

Racing is just one of the things he does when he isn't saddled with chores as the Magnolia Beverage Masters' team manager. Other times he shoots commercials, like the San Mig Coffee ad where he appeared with a handful of basketball greats.

Andres, too, has taken up his father's sport. Even if he never got the chance to watch live the way Hector tore up defenses and issued pinpoint passes.

"What he saw were the tapes of my games," says Calma.

But more than a year ago, Andres' interest in basketball was sparked when he attended a basketball clinic conducted by Calma, Nandy Garcia and JP Pacheco in Alabang.

"He's about 5'4", but I can see his improvement," said Hector. ***Inquirer Sports Desk***

THE DIRECTOR, as Hector Calma was popularly known during his basketball days, helps son Andres get started on the track.

Isidro churns out perfect game

RICARDO "CANDONG" ISIDRO OF THE STA. Lucia East Tenpin Bowling Association (Sletba) scored a perfect game during the association's Ruler of the Lanes monthly tournament last Sunday at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Bowling Center in Cainta, Rizal. Isidro used a 15-pound Night Hawk Menace by AMF in rolling his 300. He finished the tournament in second place with a total score of 1936 in eight games, behind the eventual champion, Daboy Mendoza, who had 1978. Sixto Sengson was third with 1907.

ISIDRO

Sports scribe scores ace in SMC golf tilt

SPORTSWRITER DANTE NAVARRO SCORED AN ace during the 6th San Miguel Corporation Media Invitational Golf Tournament recently at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

The feat nearly overshadowed the victory of Cook Magazine's Dino Datu, who emerged as the lowest gross champion in the event played at Wack Wack's west course.

Navarro, of the Philippine Star, aced the par-three, 139-yard, Hole No 8. He used a Top Flite 5-iron and a Maxfli No. 5 ball for the feat witnessed by flightmates Aldrin Cardona, Adrian Flores of Business Mirror and Aldrin Quinto of Malaya.

Datu also had the longest drive at designated Hole No. 10 at 291 yards in the tournament backed by San Miguel Beer, San Mig Coffee, Purefoods-Hormel Company, San Miguel Packaging Products Inc, Magnolia Health Tea and Gran Matador Brandy.

Delfin Perez of the Manila Bulletin won the Class A division followed by Alex Magno of the Philippine Star and Joel Palacios of the Manila Times. Business Mirror columnist Al Mendoza ruled the Class B division followed by INQUIRER sports editor Teddyvic Melendres and Ely Saludar of Radio Mindanao Network.

Cardona, Daily Tribune sports editor and Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) president, topped the Class C division, beating Malaya scribe Noli Cortez and INQUIRER's Chupsie Medina. Manila Standard Today's Rey Enano and Rey Langit of DWIZ also won special prizes.

SMC vice president for corporate affairs Ramon A. Santiago, SMC assistant vice president for external stakeholder management and sports director Robert M. Non along with media relations manager Mary Jane Llanes awarded the cash prizes and trophies in the tournament that drew 44 golfers from print and broadcast media.

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Even against intense Heat, Celtics just refuse to wilt

BOSTON—THE UNBEATEN BOSTON Celtics won their eighth straight game when Paul Pierce connected on a layup with 25 seconds remaining to secure a 92-91 victory over the Miami Heat on Friday.

Kevin Garnett chipped in with 26 points and 11 rebounds as the Celtics started the season 8-0 for the first time since 1972.

The Heat's Dwayne Wade missed a contested jump shot that would have won the game as time expired after Boston's James Posey, a former Miami team mate, pressured him on the play.

"Posey just stepped up," Celtics coach Doc Rivers told reporters. "I think it helped having played with him, but Wade with the ball is not a pleasant thing for a coach. Let's just be honest. He makes so many of them."

The Heat had roared back from a 15-point, fourth-quarter deficit to take the lead at 91-90 on Udonis Haslem's free throw with 33 seconds on the clock.

But Pierce, who had 12 points, worked his way inside for the winning basket.

"Truthfully, I was surprised coach called the play for me," Pierce told reporters. "I've been struggling with a strain in my back but he still has tremendous confidence in me—in all of us—and I wanted to be there for my teammates at the end."

Ray Allen added 19 points, Posey 13 and Rajon Rondo had nine points and 10 assists for the Celtics.

Wade, making his first start after knee and shoulder surgery in the off-season, led Miami (1-8) with 23 points on 8-of-15 shooting.

Ricky Davis scored 20 and Shaquille O'Neal had 17 points and nine rebounds.

LeBron James scored 34 of his 40 points in the second half and the Cleveland Cavaliers ended the Utah Jazz's five-game winning streak with a 99-94 home win.

James, who also had 10 rebounds and nine assists, blocked a key shot by Carlos Boozer with 12 seconds to go and Cleveland ahead by two. Boozer finished with 26 points and 11 rebounds.

The Los Angeles Lakers scored 41 points in the fourth quarter to overtake the Detroit Pistons for a 103-91 home victory.

Lamar Odom had 25 points and 15 rebounds for the Lakers with Kobe Bryant adding 19 points and seven assists.

Richard Hamilton and Tayshaun Prince each had 16 points for the Pistons.

San Antonio's Tim Duncan blocked a shot by Houston's Yao Ming with nine seconds remaining as the Spurs beat the Rockets 90-84.

Duncan finished with 25 points and 13 rebounds.

Luis Scola scored 20 points for the Rockets, who played without injured high scorer Tracy McGrady. Yao had 14 points and nine rebounds.

The Orlando Magic won their sixth straight road game, stopping the depleted New Jersey Nets, 95-70, behind Dwight Howard's 21 points and 19 rebounds.

Jason Kidd had 19 rebounds, 11 points and 10 assists for the Nets, who lost their fourth in a row and shot only 29.8 per cent.

The Philadelphia 76ers rebounded from a 25-point first-half deficit to beat the Portland Trail Blazers, 92-88.

Louis Williams scored 19 second-half points to spark the 76ers, who missed 15 consecutive shots in the first half. Brandon Roy and LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 25 points each. *Reuters*

GAME TODAY
(Basketball TV)
11:30 a.m.—Chicago vs. L.A. Clippers
(replay @ 9 p.m.)

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS (*Home team in caps*): TORONTO 110, Indiana 101; PHILADELPHIA 92, Portland 88; BOSTON 92, Miami 91; Orlando 95, NEW JERSEY 70; Seattle 126, ATLANTA 123 (OT); CLEVELAND 99, Utah 94; New Orleans 120, MEMPHIS 118 (OT); SAN ANTONIO 90, Houston 84 ; Washington 105, MINNESOTA 89

KEVIN Garnett couldn't have said it any better. After Paul Pierce's last basket and James Posey's final defensive stand, the Boston Celtics, indeed, look like the No. 1 team in the league. REUTERS

San Beda tankers top Taiwan tilt

TWO SAN BEDA COLLEGE swimmers dominated the five-nation Citi Invitational swim meet held recently at the Taipei American School.

Amado Miguel Paulo Diaz, a business communications student, collected six gold medals, a silver and a bronze while Heish Lavina topped the female division with a 2-5-1 gold-silver-bronze haul.

Diaz shattered eight records and received two crystal trophies as top male swimmer and overall highest pointer of the two-day invitational meet.

Lavina, who broke the existing meet record in the 100-meter backstroke, was named top female swimmer.

Diaz and Lavina are members of the San Beda team that sent 20 swimmers under the stewardship of six-year NCAA outstanding coach awardee Dondon Roxas.

In the 50-meter breaststroke, Tana Verzo, an eight-year-old second-grader from De La Salle Zobel, clinched the gold.

She also took silver medals in the 50m butterfly and 100m breaststroke, three bronzes in the 200m individual medley and the 200m and 400m freestyle.

Verzo and 12 others formed the Fighting Orcas Swim Club of coach Susan Papa. The team won a total of one gold, five silver and nine bronze medals.

The other Orca medalists were Josef Dos Remedios, three silvers; Lana Bosch, two bronzes; Vincent Alvarez, one bronze; Nicole Alvarez, Jaime Tiongson, Ernestine Tiongson, and Tana Verzo, bronze medalists in girls' relay; Hilario Davide IV, Rafael Santiago, Vincent Alvarez and Hans Ramos, bronze medalist in boys' relay. *Romina S. Austria*

Ferrer reaches Masters Cup final

SHANGHAI, CHINA—SIXTH-ranked David Ferrer raced past No. 5 Andy Roddick, 6-1, 6-3, Saturday to reach the Masters Cup final.

Top-ranked Roger Federer and No. 2 Rafael Nadal meet later in the second semifinal of the tournament for the top eight players in the rankings.

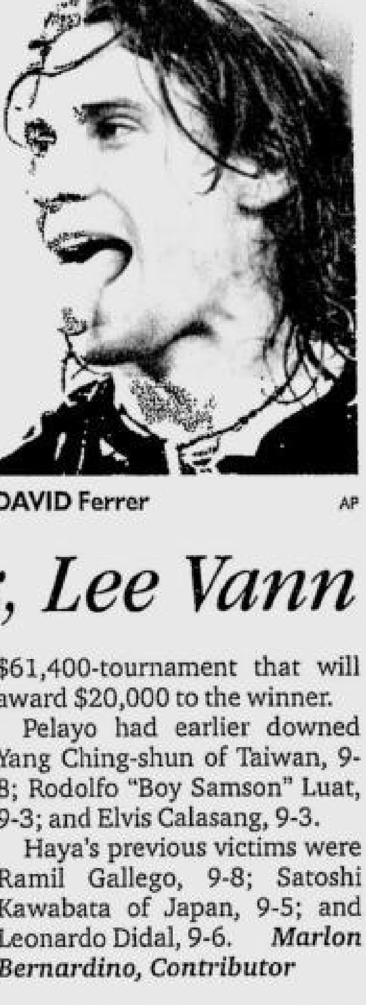
While Ferrer was backed by a vocal section of flag-waving Spanish fans who were dressed in their red-and-gold national colors and chanted to a trumpet, bongo drum and cymbals, most of the fans in the packed but chilly 15,000-seat arena clearly favored Roddick.

They didn't get much to cheer about.

Ferrer, who now has dropped only one set in four matches, was fresh, confident and sharp from the start, while Roddick seemed to be showing the effects of the short 20-hour turnaround from his loss to Federer the night before. Ferrer last played Thursday.

After Roddick held serve to start the match, Ferrer ran off six games in a row, with Roddick never managing a game point. Roddick's serve lost some of its usual zing, and he got a massage on his lower back after getting broken for the second time to trail 4-1. He won only 11 of his 26 service points in the first set.

Ferrer, one of the best serve returners in the game, had plenty to do with that. Nimble and quick at the baseline, his defense was nearly flawless. He ripped winners from both sides on the run, and punished Roddick when he came in, sending groundstrokes past him or at his feet. *AP*



DAVID Ferrer AP

Low-ranked foes upset Alex, Lee Vann

PELAYO: Upset win

DUMAGUETE CITY—UNHERALDED Jarry Pelayo and Elmer Haya dispatched their more experienced opponents to secure semifinal slots in the Negros Oriental International 9-Ball Championships late Friday at the Dumaguete Convention Center.

The 32-year-old Pelayo, who lost three fingers in a firecracker accident as a young boy, upset current National Open champion Lee Vann Corteza, 9-4.

Haya, a 30-year-old native of Molave, Zamboanga, then shocked 2004 World Pool Champion Alex Pagulayan, 9-5.

Pelayo and Haya, both playing under the banner of Negros Billiard Stable (NBS), are the only undefeated players in the $61,400-tournament that will award $20,000 to the winner.

Pelayo had earlier downed Yang Ching-shun of Taiwan, 9-8; Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, 9-3; and Elvis Calasang, 9-3.

Haya's previous victims were Ramil Gallego, 9-8; Satoshi Kawabata of Japan, 9-5; and Leonardo Didal, 9-6. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

HYUNDAI ASIA RESOURCES, INC. REIGNS AS 2006 DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR

Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), Hyundai's official distributor in the Philippines, conquers another milestone to reinforce its positioning as a globally competitive player in the automotive industry. Owing to a remarkable sales output and overall distributorship performance, HARI was accorded with an Award of Excellence as the 2006 Distributor of the Year in the Asia & Pacific Region by Hyundai Motor Company (HMC) during the 2007 Hyundai Motor Global Distributors Convention awarding ceremonies held recently in Hawaii, USA.

From among 198 Hyundai distributors around the world, HARI was heralded as Hyundai's best league of distributors, composed of 7 regional winners, representing all 7 continents. The winners were handpicked by HMC based on rigid selection criteria involving various distributorship operations in the area of sales, service, parts, and dealership enhancement programs.

"We, at HARI, are very much honored that Hyundai Motor Company recognizes us as a strong partner in building the Hyundai brand at a globally competitive stance. Our second win as Distributor of the Year is a testament of the Filipinos' rising level of confidence in the Hyundai brand and HARI's stronghold of a sizeable market share in the Philippine automotive industry," says Fe Perez-Agudo, HARI EVP and Chief Operating Officer.

Currently the country's Top 5 automotive brand, HARI's second win of the coveted Distributor of the Year award is the reaffirmation of HARI's continuing upward momentum, hallmarked by as much as 46% growth in sales, based on January to October 2007 CAMPI YTD report, compared to the same period last year, cornering 7.0% market share. The improved level of the Filipino consumer's confidence in the Hyundai brand is also precipitated by a 90% loyalty rating for genuine Hyundai parts and accessories, and by world-class operations that have earned for HARI dealerships the prestigious Elite Award in 2006.

With HARI's resolute commitment to excellence and the utmost in quality and customer-centric marketing ethic, the resulting pay off has become not only rewarding but motivating as well.

"They say that you're only as good as your last performance. The recent accolades that have been added to our stellar roster of achievements serve as a reminder for HARI to remain steadfast with our quest to drive our way to the customer's heart and mind," concludes Ms. Agudo, beaming with pride as she maps out next year's strategies for another shot at victory.

Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), official distributor of Hyundai vehicles in the Philippines, was accorded the 2006 Award of Excellence as the Distributor of the Year for the Asia & Pacific Region from among 198 Hyundai distributors spread over 7 continents around the world during the 2007 Hyundai Motor Global Distributors Convention held recently in Hawaii, USA.
In photo (from L-R) are: Mr. Il Sung Seo, President, Hyundai Motor Company Asia Regional Headquarters; Fe Perez-Agudo, EVP and Chief Operating Officer, HARI; Richard L. Lee, Chairman Emeritus, HARI; Sun Bal Kim, General Manager, HMC Int'l Business Operation; and Young-Gil Hyun, Deputy General Manager, HMC Asia Regional Headquarters.

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- **Former hotel worker** now art shop owner /B4

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STERLING BANK OF ASIA

New kid on the block

Bank manager seeks to make a difference

By Doris C. Dumlao

LAMBERTO VILLENA

> Excellence will never cease to be attractive. And you create that value to survive

IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT A new bank is born in the Philippines these days, with the moratorium declared by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on the establishment of new banks and branches to spur consolidations within the overcrowded industry.

But for the stockholders and management team of the country's newest thrift bank Sterling Bank of Asia, there's still room for a new player seeking to make a difference in an industry where some banks tend to slacken when they've grown too big while a lot of small banks are stuck forever as niche players. This newbie aspires to grow into a publicly listed international bank.

"We draw strength from companies who have entered very crowded businesses and have made it, like (fastfood giant) Jollibee and (bread-maker) Gardenia," Sterling Bank president Lamberto Villena says in an interview with INQUIRER.

VILLENA takes his oath with the Chamber of Thrift Banks as Sterling Bank became its member

"There are lots of banks there but they miss one point. Excellence will never cease to be attractive. And you create that brand of excellence to survive," he says.

Imagine a bank offering simple yet heartwarming conveniences like serving free-flowing gourmet coffee for all clients and employees. Or pioneering a no-downpayment financing for brand new car acquisition.

Its value proposition, after all, is to offer world-class and professional level of service by creating a strong sales culture and customer orientation. In all its service lines, the bank vows to customize solutions and execute these with highest service levels. It envisions itself to be the preferred bank of professionals, entrepreneurs, overseas Filipino workers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The newbie, however, is not exactly starting from scratch. It is run by seasoned bankers and owned by a group which used to hold a substantial stake in International Exchange Bank. And it has the financial muscle to compete.

Sterling Bank started operations last March with a capital base of P1 billion or three times the BSP's requirement. With this seed money, the bank has immediately grabbed a slot among the country's top 10 thrift banks in terms of capitalization.

Shareholders

The bank's shareholders are JTKC Equities Inc., Star Equities and Surewell Equities Inc. JTKC and Star Equities which have investments in a wide range of industries from logistics to finance, real estate as well as hotel and resort properties. Among them are the Discovery Suites in Ortigas Center, the Mansions group of service apartments, Kent Vynil Tiles and iRemit Global Remittance. The bank's board chair Ben Tiu brought Villena onboard the new bank.

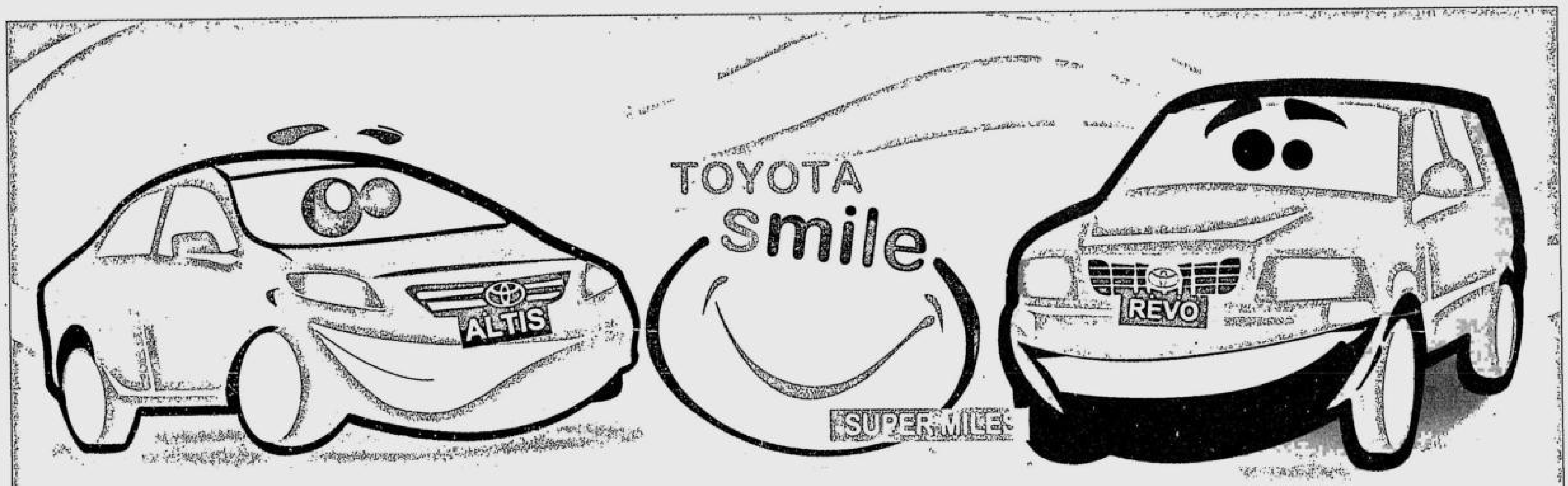
Sterling Bank's stockholders have long wanted to return to banking but with the central bank's moratorium, the only way to go was through acquisition. They could have immediately bought a commercial bank, but prudently chose to start with something small but one which has a clean slate.

Thus, the group acquired dormant Far East Savings Bank from the Ayalas' Bank of the Philippine Islands. Far East Savings was nothing but a shell company with a banking license and some government securities holdings. Then, the group also bought 14 of the BPI group's excess branches.

The strategy made sense because under the stiffer International Accounting System now adopted in the country, goodwill (which is the intangible portion of valuation during buyout deals) is charged to equity.

"If we bought a commercial bank, the

NEW KID/ B2



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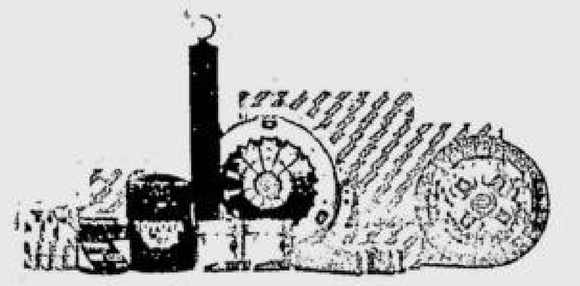

Young Datu finds success in veggie farming

DATU Saripin Makaludos, a former member of the MNLF, shows off the sweet bell pepper grown in his farm

AT FIRST GLANCE, Saripin "Karim" Macaludos' diminutive frame betrays his royal lineage. "I'm actually a Datu. But I would like to be known more as a farmer," says the soft-spoken Karim, as he walks past rows upon rows of gleaming sweet bell pepper in his vegetable farm in the rolling hills of Barangay Lumakil, in Polomolok, South Cotabato.

Dressed in a frayed sweatshirt and maong pants, it's easy to mistake Karim for an average local vegetable grower or trader. However, for residents in this once strife-torn village, he is looked upon as the "anointed one" and the successor to his late father, Datu Ismael, who was a well-respected elder in the community.

When his father passed away in 2001, the young Karim confronted the daunting challenge of taking on the patriarch's leadership role. His father, together with his brothers and cousins, were members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which was then engaged in an armed struggle with the Philippine government.

"But the members of my family were not involved in armed battles," Karim relates. "My father was a peacemaker who always emphasized to his comrades the virtues of justice and respect for human life."

Karim says the signing of the peace agreement in 1996 was the turning point for his family and comrades who had grown weary of fighting. The benefits of peace took concrete form when USAID's Livelihood Enhancement and Peace (LEAP) Program named Karim's group as one of its partner-beneficiaries, providing the former fighters with enough seeds and fertilizer to begin corn production.

LEAP was designed to assist former MNLF combatants reintegrate into mainstream society by training them to become productive corn, rice and seaweed farmers, thus enabling them to earn sufficient money to take care of their families..

Right decision

"After receiving assistance from LEAP, we knew that we made the right decision in choosing the path of peace," Karim says.

After seeing his comrades achieve success in corn production, and with most of them earning stable incomes, Karim decided to pursue his higher education. He earned a management degree in 2003, and worked briefly in an appliance center in Koronadal City as a marketing agent. But after a few months, he realized that his heart didn't belong to the sales profession and decided to return to his hometown.

During this period, staff from USAID's Targeted Commodity Expansion Program (TCEP), visited Lumakil and introduced Karim and his men to vegetable production. TCEP, which is being implemented by USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, trains former LEAP beneficiaries to produce high-value commodities such vegetables, cardaba banana, catfish, *tilapia*, *lapu-lapu* (grouper), abalone and prawns, to raise their incomes.

To date, TCEP has trained 9,500 of these former MNLF combatants throughout the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and other conflict-affected areas in the island. Implementation of the GEM Program is overseen by the Mindanao Economic Development Council MEDCo).

Karim says he was hesitant, at first, about vegetable production. But the TCEP team was insistent and explained to him the economic potential of the enterprise. "The GEM field technicians visited our community almost every week and encouraged me to attend seminars and field trips so that I would have a better appreciation of vegetable production," he stated.

Very pleased

He was finally convinced to try his hand in vegetable farming when during one of the vegetable harvest festivals organized by TCEP, he saw how quickly the customers bought the assorted vegetables grown by the former MNLF men.

At the end of the festival, all of the produce had been sold, and some growers received additional orders from traders who were very pleased with the high-quality of the vegetables.

"I was amazed at how fast the vegetables were sold. I could see that my [MNLF] comrades were making good money and it struck me that our group could do the same given our fertile and sizeable farmlands," he shares.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Karim and his men now grow sweet bell pepper, bitter gourd (*ampalaya*) string beans, eggplant, mongo and tomato in a 1,000 square meter farm lot adjacent to the groups' sprawling corn production area.

"Growing vegetables is very profitable," he explains. His group now delivers around 50 kilos of bitter gourd and 100 kilos of eggplant twice a week to nearby market centers.

The group also travels to neighboring towns to find new markets for its produce. With bitter gourd selling at P20 per kilo and eggplant at P10 per kilo, the group earns a healthy profit, which has allowed it to purchase additional seeds and fertilizer.

According to Karim, the major advantage of planting vegetables other than corn is that a large area is not required for production. Karim's group started with a 500-sq.m. plot until it was eventually able to expand its production area.

"Although vegetable farming is quite labor intensive, this is offset by good financial returns and you don't need to wait for three to four months to make your first harvest," he says.

Marketing agreement

Recently, Karim's group established a relationship with another successful TCEP cluster headed by Zarrudin Kakim, which signed a marketing agreement with GenTuna, a processing plant in Gen. Santos City. Under the arrangement, the two groups will consolidate production and deliver at least two tons of sweet chili pepper to GenTuna every month. They have agreed to share the profits equally.

Karim says his management course has helped him in running the daily operations of his farm. "Everything should be systematic. Vegetable production also requires a lot of planning and strategic thinking. You should always be aware of your strengths and weaknesses."

The youthful Datu declares that vegetable farming has significantly improved the lives of his family and comrades. "Vegetable farming has provided my people the opportunity to earn stable incomes, and more importantly, it has, given them hope for a brighter future," Karim concludes.

New kid on the block

From page B1

minimum requirement is about P2.4 billion in capital. They normally ask for double the book value or P4.8 billion. You will throw away that money. With that money I can open more branches. It is a better use of resources," Villena says.

Building the backbone

"For a startup savings bank, we were able to grab the big people we needed. It's never easy but what we offered them was a vision of making a difference," he says. "These (people) are what I call grizzled veterans but each one without personal agenda, each one a teamworker."

Villena himself gave up a plum post as an executive vice president at the Yuchengcos' Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. to help organize the new bank. His executive vice president Asterio "Boy" Favis was treasurer of Philippine National Bank and a senior player in the money market industry.

"I see my role as CEO like a conductor in an orchestra. You'll know that a conductor without an orchestra will have no symphony. I am just one of the key members of the symphony ... the conductor will make sure that the symphony is playing a world-class number," he says.

Management philosophy

His core management philosophy is inspired by that of New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, whom he believes is very successful because he runs the city as if it's a private company.

"You hire smart people, then you delegate. Encourage your people to take risks and just manage the risk. If they make mistakes, they learn from it ...Give importance to the existence of a person and he will reciprocate as a person. Listen to them, motivate them, treat them well. And if we make money, we will all share," he says.

Under Villena's leadership, the bank has mapped out a clear career ladder for employees, who are encouraged to stay for the long haul. Average age for the rank and file staff is 25; for the junior officers, 35; and, for the senior officers, 45. This built-in system of succession is meant to ensure that the organization is efficient and each staff well-motivated.

Bancnet
-Stop Ban
Sterling Bank
Memorandu
Signing
March 20, 200
DURING the Bancnet signing ceremony, when Sterling Bank of Asia joined the Bancnet ATM consortium to become its 31st member bank

> 'Encourage your people to take risks and just manage the risk. If they make mistakes, they learn from it'

"And of course there will be reasonable rewards. Our pay scale is benchmarked against the other banks. We hired Watson Wyatt to make sure that our compensation is competitive," he says.

Also in place is a blueprint for a calculated and managed growth.

In this first year of operations, all efforts focused in setting up the infrastructure. In the second year, the bank will have to streamline the infrastructure to check possible excesses. In the third year, that's when it shall go for more aggressive expansion and in the third to fourth year, a further scaling up.

Revving up

Sterling Bank is currently seeking a license from the BSP to open up a foreign currency deposit unit as well as for quasibanking license. It has also applied with the Securities and Exchange Commission for dealership in government securities.

By the end of this year, Sterling Bank aims to have 13 to 15 branches. What happens once the bank has used up the leeway to open 14 branches using those bought from BPI?

"We'll just have to scout around for banks who are willing to sell. We have looked at several banks in the market. But what is discouraging is the premium that they're asking. It's not reasonable, and premium is charged to equity," he says.

The second option is to go to areas where the BSP's branching moratorium has been lifted.

Either way, the bank looks forward to serving Malabon, Navotas, Caloocan, Marikina, Taguig, Alabang, San Fernando, Angeles, Dau, Dagupan, Baguio and in the Calabarzon—Imus and Dasmariñas—and outside Luzon, Cebu and General Santos City.

Vast experience

A lawyer-turned-banker, Villena has had a vast experience in financial intermediation from bagging corporate accounts to nurturing small and medium enterprises to restructuring of defaulting borrowers after the Asian currency crisis.

"The biggest satisfaction I got is not from bagging the accounts of big multinationals but it is from helping small SME grow into successful entrepreneurs," he says.

Another market being targeted by Sterling Bank is the lucrative overseas Filipino worker sector, especially having publicly listed money transfer firm iRemit as a sister company. "Money will come in if you do it right," Villena says.

GOINGS-ON

RP-UK Friendship Week set

THE BRITISH Embassy Manila recently announced the activities to celebrate Philippine-British Friendship week from Nov. 30 to Dec. 9.

Hoping to take advantage of the opportunity to promote responsible business practices and corporate social responsibility (CSR), a series of events will bring together RP-UK stakeholders to comprise a coherent "Business that Cares" campaign.

Anchored on the important role that the business sector can play in national development, the British Embassy, together with the British Alumni Association, British Council and the British Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, will promote health, education, cross-cultural understanding and environmental consciousness.

There will be roundtable discussions with Philippine business directors, a waste management seminar by a trade mission from the United Kingdom, VisitBritain tourism exhibit at the Shangri-la Plaza mall, and a medical mission to Smokey Mountain, Tondo, Manila.

In addition, fund-raising activities, organized by the British Alumni Association, will benefit the Chevening Scholarships such as the "Ambassador's Cup" golf tournament at Wack-wack Golf Club, Equestrian competition and Fund-raising Gala Dinner at the Manila Polo Club.

Real estate seminar scheduled

URBAN Institute of Real Estate will conduct a seminar on "How To Start And Manage A Successful Realty Office" on Nov. 28, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Maximo Function Room, Max's Restaurant, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Quezon City.

Topics included are sources and how to secure properties for sale; needed documents such as authority to sell; requirements to be entitled to commission; how to safeguard your commission; how to start and close a transaction; sales organizational structures; sales personnel recruitment techniques; training programs; advancement and career path programs; commission structures, awards and other incentives; how to do real estate networking; real estate associations; franchising; business operations; real estate brokerage, terminologies, definition of real estate professionals, qualifications and licensing requirements, subjects covered in the licensing examination; penalties for illegal practice, duties of a professional to his clients and other relevant topics.

Other topics will be conducted at the same time and venue, which can be attended separately, as follows: Nov. 26—Investing in Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques & What are Needed to Learn before Investing; Dec. 3—Joint Ventures and Syndications for Real Estate Projects; Dec. 5—Management of Rental Properties: How to Maximize Income of Rental Properties; Dec. 7—Making Big Money in Distressed Properties; and Dec. 10—Taxation of Real Estate Sales and other Transactions.

This Lecture Series is accredited by DTI for CEP compliance and will have as lecturer Engr. Enrico S. Cruz, who has more than 40 years in real estate, engineering, construction, management and education. Cruz is also a licensed real estate consultant and 1st and 8th placer in the real estate appraiser's and broker's board examinations respectively, and was invested as a "Real Estate Fellow" by the Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators.

For other details or advance registration, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928, 796-8019 or 0916-426-9174 / 0921-683-9431 or by email at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

IP Philippines stages meet

THE INTELLECTUAL Property Office of the Philippines recently opened the 4th Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Conference (Hipoc) 2007 at the Peninsula Manila with close to 100 local and foreign delegates in attendance. IP Philippines staged the two-day event for the first time in partnership with the European Patent Office (EPO) kast Nov. 13 to 14, 2007.

Atty. Adrian S. Cristobal Jr., director general of IP Philippines, said it was an honor for the country to host Hipoc 2007. The international conference, themed "Addressing IP Needs of the Future," builds on the previous year's meeting in Singapore on addressing growing workload and office modernization.

The first session, presided over by Cristobal, discussed the future of intellectual property rights (IPR) where Dr. Manuel Desantes, vice president of the EPO, presented strategic scenarios for the future.

These scenarios could serve as tools for IP offices in designing strategies for intellectual property rights.

On Nov. 14, presentations included the origins and objectives of the Regional Patent Technical Co-operation (RPTC) Project by Morey; RPTC studies by Johan Amand who is a consultant and former director of EPO and Mogens Baltsen, head of the Patent Examination Section of the Danish Patent and Trademark Office (DKPTO).

Blogging seminar on

EVERYONE has something to say and they are blogging about it. Now it's time to learn how to transform the hobby into something more lucrative.

Money Talks! is a series of seminars and workshops for entrepreneurs and business-minded folks. It aims to open up new and exciting business opportunities in the new media that anyone can learn, appreciate and turn into an alternative source of income. For its first offering, Money Talks! features 'Blogging for Money.' Blogging for Money happens on Nov. 24 at the Power Tips Business Center, 5th floor The Podium, 18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas, Pasig City. Fee is P1,500.00 for an 8-hour session inclusive of light snacks, materials and use of equipment. For more information, contact (0916)435.3882, visit http://makelotsofmoney.wordpress.com, or email intermedia.workshops@gmail.com.

Breathing room

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

WHEN I MENTOR YOUNG LEADERS, I ALways stress to them the importance of having margins in their lives.

What exactly are margins? Margins give you breathing room so that when something goes wrong—as it surely will sooner or later—the problem isn't compounded because you don't have an answer.

Let's take an example from the world of finances. Having financial margins means you're putting a little bit of money aside regularly so that when you get hit with an unexpected economic problem, you're able to take care of it without it turning into a crisis.

Margins don't just apply to money, of course. They also apply to your time and your relationships.

Here's another way to look at it. When you're living a life with margins, you conduct yourself in such a way that you always have some IOUs you can collect. Those IOUs might take the form of goodwill from another person, money you have saved or even time you have set aside in case you don't get a certain project done. Whatever the case, margins help you manage situations that could otherwise easily turn into major disasters.

Although margins are extremely valuable, they don't just happen naturally. As I make it a point to tell young leaders, you have to work hard to build them into your life. But it's definitely worth the trouble, and here's why.

With time, effort and purpose, margins become options. And options, in turn, give you choices, so that when you experience some kind of hardship, it's okay. You might take a few hits, and you might come away with a few bumps and bruises, but with margins, the pain is often only temporary.

This isn't rocket science. In fact, it's actually very simple. If you work hard enough and long enough with margins, those margins eventually grow into options that affect your personal fulfillment and quality of life. You don't have to work when you don't want to work, and you don't have to do what you don't want to do. You get to a point where you have an incredible amount of freedom, all because of the options.

This reminds me of something the late Mary Kay Ash, founder of the cosmetics empire that bears her name, believed very strongly. "Nothing's easy," she said, "but everything's possible if you work hard." In other words, you can do anything in this world if you want to do it badly enough and if you are willing to pay the price.

You might look at your life and think, "There's no way I can develop any margins with my checkbook, my family or my relationships with people at work." But what Mary Kay said definitely applies. "It's not easy to develop margins, but it is possible if you work hard. And as I said before, the resulting freedom you'll experience is definitely worth the effort."

Look at it this way. For people without margins, everything is difficult and some things are impossible. For people with margins, however, some things are difficult but nothing is impossible. While it's certainly true that far more people live life without margins than with them, that doesn't have to be the case for you.

> Margins are valuable, but they don't just happen naturally. You have to work hard to build them into your life

Come up with the specific steps you need to take to build some margins into your finances, your relationships and your calendar, and then get busy. The sooner you begin, the sooner you'll start benefiting from an ever-increasing range of options.

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail us at bingericta@gmail.com or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Bing Ericta. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!

No need to cut corners on ink refilling now

CARTRIDGE INK REFILLING HAS BEEN in the country for several years now, but it never realized its full potential because of run-of-the-mill system refillers use to cut corners just to gain profit.

They use universal generic ink, manually use syringes and disregard the need to weigh and change chips, thus causing more harm than good to computer printers.

While most businesses and personal users wanted to cut costs on cartridges and contribute to preserving the environment, they had no choice but to stay with the original equipment manufacturer because of the inefficiency of existing refilling systems.

Well, here's a good news.

Filipinos can look forward to better service and bigger savings with the recent entry to the Philippine market of Cartridge World, the leading cartridge refilling firm and one of the world's fastest growing franchise.

The Australia-based company is a one-stop shop for all inkjet, laser, fax and photocopier needs, which recycles cartridges using new earth-friendly technology.

With more than 1,500 franchisees in almost 50 countries, Cartridge World is the first franchise to give a full range of services to meet the printing needs of the consumer and business sector.

"Initially, I wanted to put up a high-end salon. However, when we did the feasibility study of Cartridge World, we found out that there's a huge market for the refilling and remanufacturing industry," reveals Babylyn Decena-Newfield, master franchisee of Cartridge World in the Philippines.

Based on estimates, there were some 12 million cartridges used in 2006, and only some 3 percent were refilled because of fear of damaging their printers.

She pointed out that the entry of Cartridge World in the market poses a big challenge in educating customers on good quality, assuring them of printer warranties, and providing satisfactory after sales service.

"We are a new franchise system, and every month, our store has increased sales on an average of 40 percent. The breakeven point for operations is achievable in six months," she said.

With a huge market potential, the company offers through franchising, a viable business opportunity with a minimal investment and short return on investment period.

The franchise package is approximately P 1.5 million which includes a two-week training in Australia.

A potential store should have at least a 60-square meter floor area located in a mixed business and residential area.

For more information, log on to www.cartridgeworld.com.ph or call the main office at 8936994 for franchise details.

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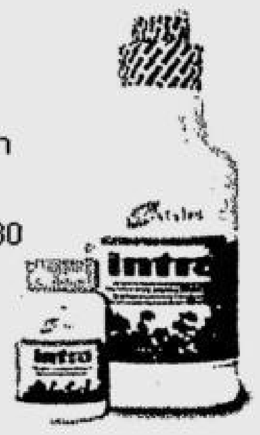

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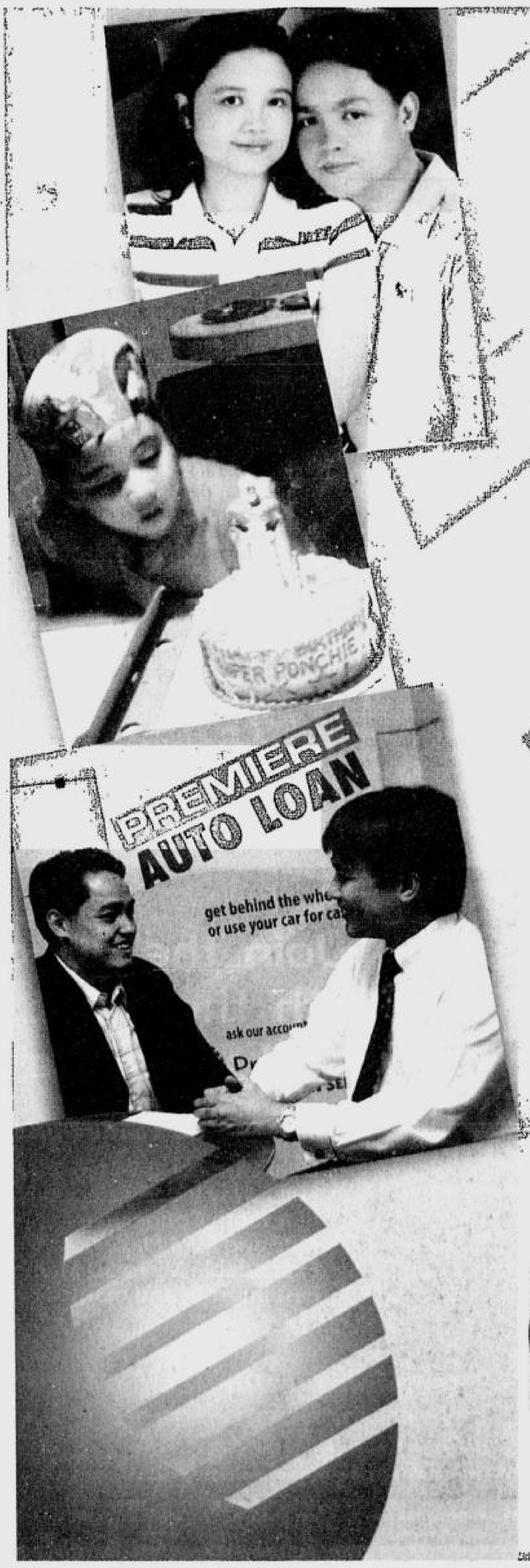

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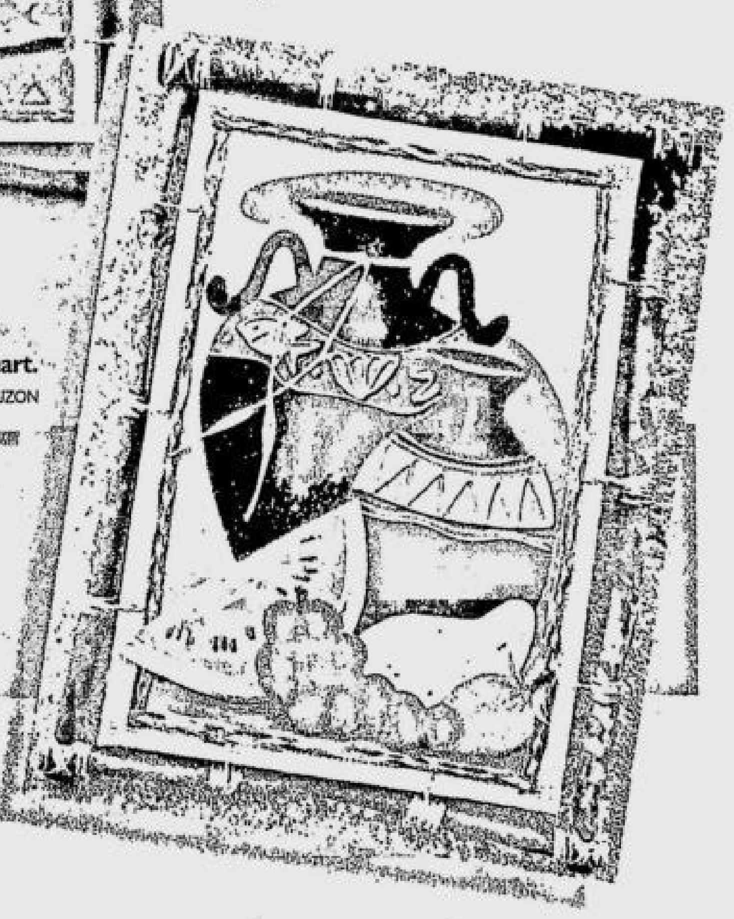
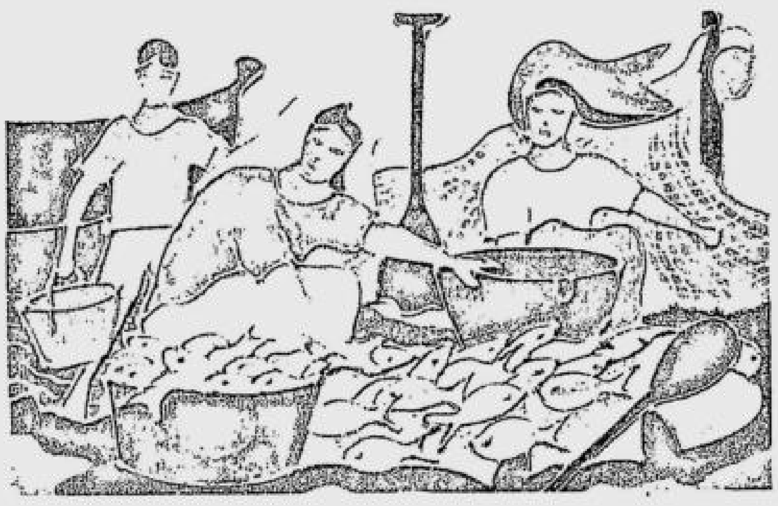
CARLITO Calleja is an artist by heart.
PHOTOS BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

It did not take long before Carlito Calleja realized that painting and owning an art shop was what he wanted



Hotel worker discovers calling in commercial art

By Joanna Los Baños
Inquirer Southern Luzon



HIS WORKS featuring human figures in everyday life are among his bestsellers.

STO. DOMINGO, ALBAY—Joining a foundation in his town of Sto. Domingo that was then providing livelihood opportunities and employment for its residents proved fortuitous for Carlito Calleja, 41.

In 1998, when he immersed in the foundation, he was working as an artist for a hotel in neighboring Tabaco City and taking care of maintenance work for already two years.

Although still employed at the hotel, Calleja confidently put up a small art shop in his hometown in 1999 where he sells brightly hued paintings framed in abaca fiber and wood.

Knowledge from the now defunct Sto. Domingo Diakonie Spinnrad Development Foundation Inc., a small and medium enterprise based in the town, and a capital of P4,000 were enough to spur him in his new enterprise.

"Most of the foundation's products were handmade paper. I did not want to copy their ideas so I did not use handmade papers in my artworks," he said.

Members of the foundation produced handmade paper from different indigenous materials and sold decorative paper, wall decors, lamp shades, postcards and bags.

While striking a balance between his work as a hotel employee and as owner of an art shop he decided he was ready to go full-time in his art shop—after realizing it was really what he wanted.

Born and raised in a town where Potenciano Gregorio Sr. lived, he named his art store Sarung Banggi Arts and Crafts. Gregorio Sr. is the writer of Bicol folk song Sarung Banggi.

Starting all over again

For seven years, he rented a work and display area in Barangay Tambangon, near the town poblacion.

Unfortunately, this display area was completely destroyed by Supertyphoon Reming late last year and he lost about P60,000 to P70,000 of his earnings.

"All of my things were lost so I had to start all over again," he said.

Losing everything to the storm, however, did not make him lose hope.

"I did not feel bad when I lost the material resources because I know that I have my ideas with me," he said.

He asked help from his siblings and gradually built a new shop in a small part of a one-hectare rice field his parents owned along the highway in Barangay Lidong.

"After one and a half months, in the middle of January, I was able to open a new shop," he said, although he admitted that as of now, he has not yet regained the money lost due to Reming.

Production process

Calleja said the process of making his artworks are not that hard once you get used to it.

First, he makes the art design, then patterns it into a chip board, put glue on it, applies the paint and constructs the frame.

The materials he uses are: Chipboard as base, water-based acry-paint, glue stick and abaca fibers, and "*malasaging*" wood as frame.

Some of Calleja's paintings are incorporated with clay from Tiwi town and sand from Mayon Volcano.

With one helper, Calleja makes about 250 pieces of artworks a month.

A small artwork costs P65 and a bigger artwork is sold at P110.

Calleja said there are also times when sales are low, especially during June and July. He considers summer and December as peak seasons.

Bestsellers

Calleja also makes custom-made and made-to-order designs for his customers.

Of these, he admitted that making a portrait of the Last Supper, Cagsawa Ruins and other big artworks gave him the most challenge.

Instead of using chipboards, he uses plywood in these designs which cost from P3,500 to P5,000.

Making big artworks would take him at least three days to make.

Among his works, those with Mayon Volcano and human figures are the ones he considers as his bestsellers.

Affordable

Coming from a family of artists, Calleja is really an artist by heart.

He used to make oil paintings and join exhibits in neighboring Legazpi City but he realized that oil paintings are really expensive and it takes so much time before they get sold.

"So I thought of making something commercial yet beautiful. And this was it," said Calleja, who was not able to finish his architecture course at the Bicol University.

Calleja admitted that the Sarung Banggi Arts and Crafts is his family's only source of income.

While he works in the shop, his wife takes care of their children ages 21, 15 and 5. Their children were all able to go to school with the help of their business.

Calleja has friends from Tabaco City, who sell his artworks at P250 to P300 in Quiapo, Manila, and Festival Mall in Alabang.

Some handicraft stores in Albay also sell Calleja's artworks at P170.

Calleja is inspired by the colors of his surroundings, and he especially likes sunsets and the environment, which he describes as a combination of beautiful colors.

"I get my ideas from what surrounds me, from what I see every day. I base my (artworks) on the place," he said.

As of now, he has about 100 different designs and he is not stopping there.

"Every time I think of something, I make a sample of it. If I like it, it goes into production," he said.

The themes of his collage artworks are mostly ethnic, modern abstract, still life and sceneries.

With his successful foray in commercial art, Calleja has no regrets he left his hotel job.

(Sarung Banggi Arts and Crafts is located in Barangay Lidong, Sto. Domingo, Albay, with contact number: 09187092534.)

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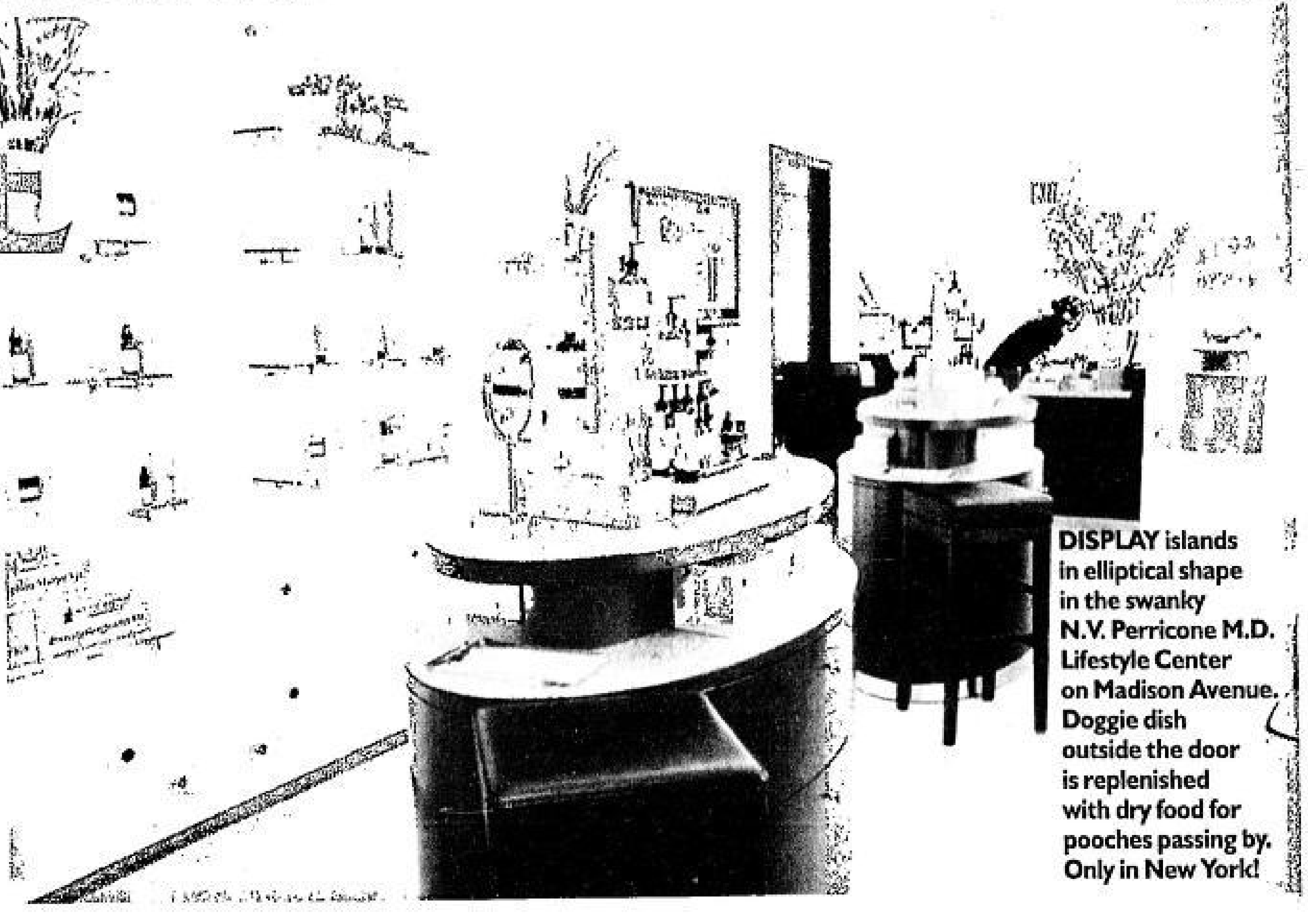

DISPLAY islands in elliptical shape in the swanky N.V. Perricone M.D. Lifestyle Center on Madison Avenue. Doggie dish outside the door is replenished with dry food for pooches passing by. Only in New York!

Dynamo of dermatology

The man behind the high-end N.V. Perricone M.D. skincare products, now available at Rustan's Essenses, is a tireless researcher

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

GLANCE AT THE PHOTO OF Dr. Nicholas Perricone on this page and if he looks familiar to you, chances are you've seen him on television a few times, most notably on the show "Oprah." Well, many times, if you count the reruns.

Perricone is internationally famous for his high-end skincare line that is now available in the Philippines, thanks to the undying aspiration of Rustan's to bring in world-class brands. These are not your run-of-the-mill creams and lotions. From the branding alone, you can tell these are products with a serious purpose. N.V. Perricone M.D. is a label backed by the dynamic dermatologist's own breakthrough research and his finding that inflammation in the body causes wrinkles and other signs of aging, whether visible or not.

But what brought Perricone to Oprah Winfrey's attention and got him beamed throughout the world are not just his A-list beauty products, not just his celebrity clients with names like Uma Thurman, J. Lo, Katie Couric and Courtney Cox, but also a diet that he designed to be taken along with certain food supplements.

All three—the topical products, the supplements and the diet—are based on Perricone's own prodigious research and are his prescriptions for aging beautifully.

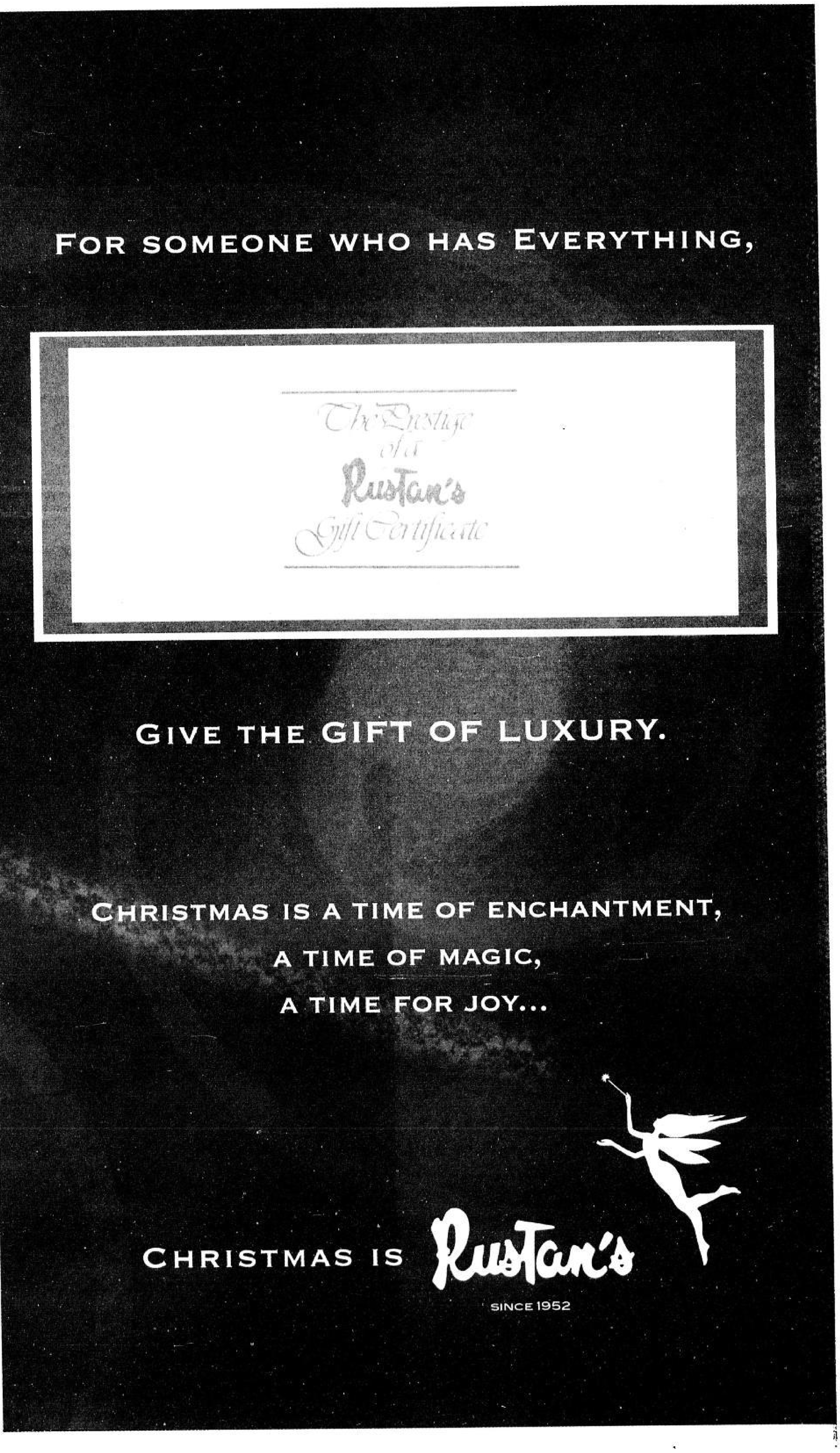
"I can make you look good, but the truth is it's a program that includes health," says Perricone over tea at the hotel St. Regis on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. "So you'll not only look great, you'll feel great."

At the new N.V. Perricone M.D. Lifestyle Center, his two-story flagship shop on pricey Madison Avenue, clients check in for

DYNAMO/ C2

DR. NICHOLAS Perricone, father of the inflammation theory of aging CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO

LIBRARY on the second floor allows clients to brush up on health and nutrition, the usual subjects of Perricone's books.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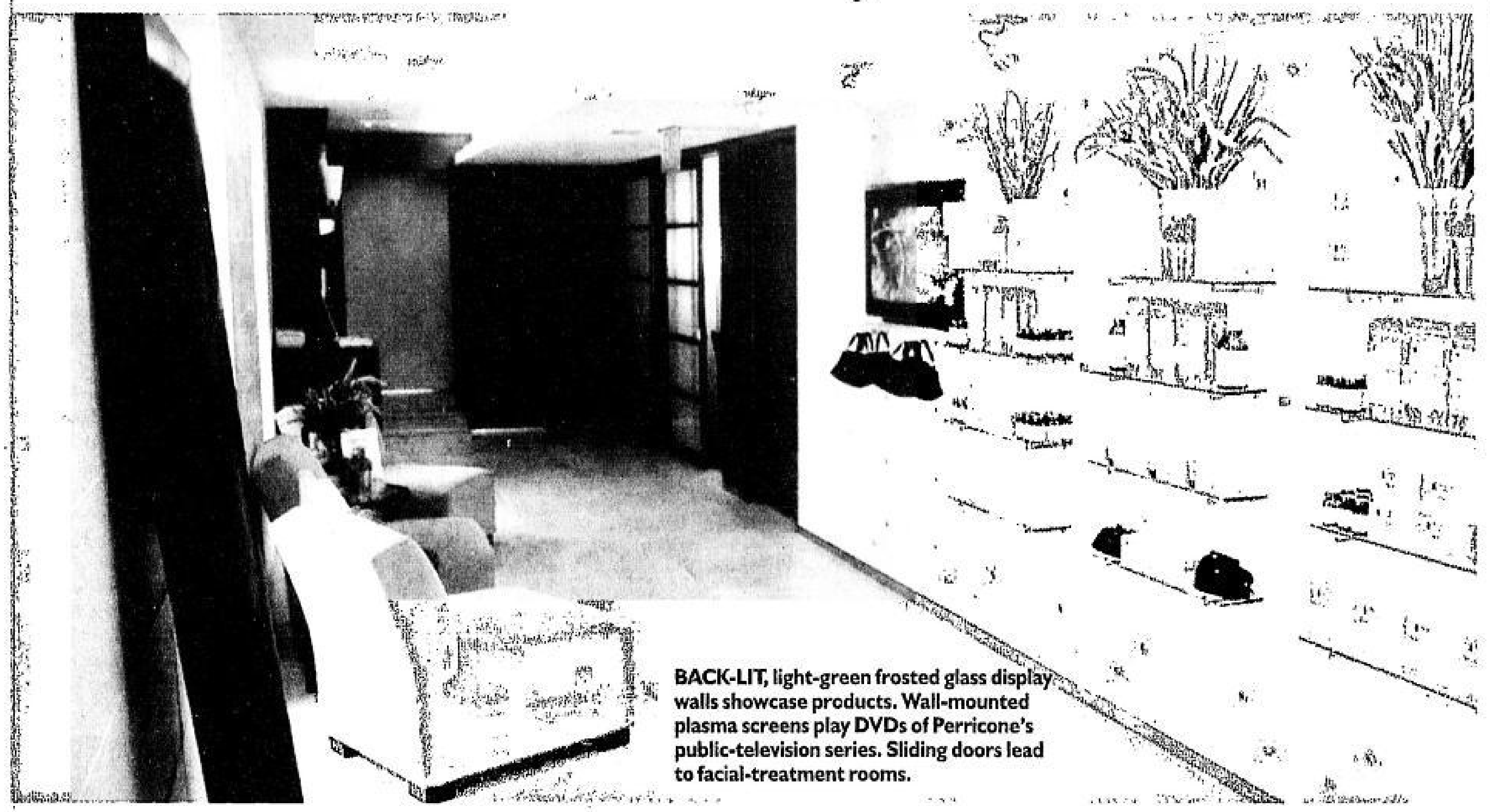
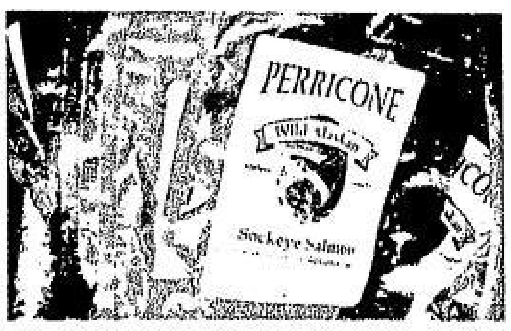


BACK-LIT, light-green frosted glass display walls showcase products. Wall-mounted plasma screens play DVDs of Perricone's public-television series. Sliding doors lead to facial-treatment rooms.

NUTRITIONIST Ester Blum and global-sales senior VP JuE Wong are both highly trained to cater to the shop's A-list clientele's need for personalized services.



WILD sockeye Alaskan salmon is the star of the Perricone anti-inflammatory, anti-aging diet.

Dynamo of dermatology

From page C1

the specialty serums and creams, which the media-savvy doctor has labeled as N.V. Perricone M.D. Cosmeceuticals, as well as for the electro-stim facial or oxygen rejuvenation facial treatment. But they also buy products for the insides, such as Omega-3 (wild sockeye salmon oil) soft gels, Super Berry powder and Skin & Total Body packet, marketed under the brand N.V. Perricone M.D. Nutriceuticals, and his Super Foods like white tea, spring water, olive oil and vacuum-packed salmon. In addition to around 50 kinds of products, a highly trained nutritionist can tailor either a three-day or a 28-day diet to their health profiles.

Perricone admits he uses vanity to get people motivated to want to adopt his program.

"Women like to look pretty and men like to look athletic," he adds. "If you say they'll get to look the way they want if they do this, this and this, they'll do it, and the health aspect becomes just a bonus."

He has no problem taking that route in marketing what he thinks is an ideal daily health regimen. And he seems to be doing the right thing, judging by news reports on his company's growth. In 2005, a year after it went international, sales topped $50 million.

From lit to med school

Although his undergrad degree is in English Literature, Perricone says he was always interested in medicine. He did something about that interest when, at 31, he finally enrolled at Michigan State University's medical school.

He made up for lost time. "I was done at 33," he says, skipping the part about graduating with distinction. Perricone then did his pediatric internship at the Yale University Children's Hospital in Connecticut. On his first day as an intern, he was asked to assist in the birthing of a baby at the delivery section. It was an amusing coincidence because it happened to be his birthday, too. He was born on June 23 in the same hospital, he says, back when it was still named Grace-New Haven Hospital.

"I was advised by Sidney Hurwitz to go into dermatology," acknowledges Perricone, who spent his dermatology residency at Ford Medical Center. He had good reason to heed the counsel. Hurwitz was the doctor who had developed a distinct medical specialty out of the entire spectrum of childhood skin disorders, including diaper rash and acne.

In medical school, Perricone says, he was already mulling the idea that inflammation that causes heart diseases, arthritis and other health conditions could be rushing the aging of the skin, too, and that nutrition may be the answer.

Scientific curiosity led him to do the research, his finding confirming his initial concerns. When he came out publicly with his theory that inflammation produced enzymes that broke down collagen, resulting in wrinkles and other visible signs of aging, the medical community, specifically the dermatology industry, frowned and howled.

No apologies

"No apologies came," he says, even after other medical experts had agreed with him that inflammation contributed to aging, obesity and depression in addition to the usual market list. (In fact, now the medical community is pointing to inflammation in the gut as a possible biomedical cause of autism and ADHD). Not even after other dermatologists started riding on his coattails and added cell-protective and cell-regenerating elements to their products.

Perricone, of course, didn't stop at research. Based on his findings, he came out with anti-aging skincare products. He patented the technologies for antioxidants like Vitamin C Ester and Alpha Lipoic Acid (ALA), as well as neuropeptides with anti-aging properties. For his "dedication and contributions toward advancing Complementary and Alternative Medicine," he has received the American College for Advancement in Medicine 2000 Norman E. Clark Sr. Lecture Award. He is also recipient of an Eli Whitney Award for his inventions and contributions to technology

Not just skin-deep

What causes inflammation? According to Perricone, diet and stress are the main instigators. The sugar in the pastries, pastas and potatoes that you eat causes a burst of inflammatory chemicals that spread throughout the body when the blood sugar is elevated by stress-induced hormones. Add smoking, pollution, overexposure to the sun and the use of irritating skin treatments to the list and you become a guaranteed candidate for inflammation on the cellular level.

While it is generally acknowledged that the body is a remarkable network of systems, no one before Perricone looked deeper and beyond the skin to find a connection between the immune system and acne, wrinkles and sagging skin. The skin was always just treated on its own, with either topical applications or a combination of creams and more drastic procedures like injections or surgical lifts.

"The skin is the visual barometer for what's happening inside the body," he says.

His anti-aging regimen is a triple treat—healthy diet, supplements and nutrient-enriched skincare products (see page C3). In addition to doing the research, he has publicized this holistic approach through his books, television appearances and university lecture series that has been collated into public TV specials and are now available on DVD.

Bestsellers

"My constant work is to educate," stresses Perricone, who indeed has found a good use for his English Lit degree. Three of his books so far have been No. 1 in the New York Times bestseller's list, namely "The Wrinkle Cure," "The Perricone Prescription" and "The Perricone Promise." His latest book "Ageless Face, Ageless Mind" hit the bookstores just last week.

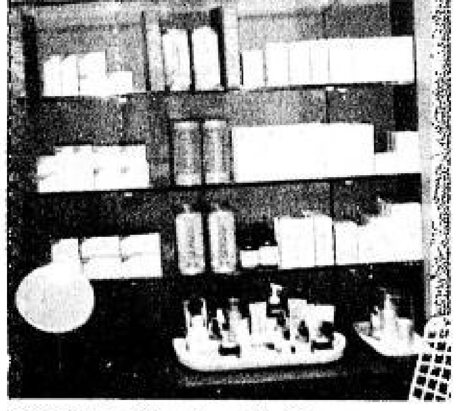
"I write a little bit every day and I keep a tape recorder with me all the time," he says to explain his prolific output.

In his books he explains the research behind his prescription that the right food, exercise and supplements can speed up metabolism and weight-loss, enhance your mood, make you more alert and responsive and—listen up, girls—keep the wrinkles away.

It is obvious he is one of those people who walk their talk because despite running the business, which includes the production in Connecticut and the flagship in Manhattan, despite his amazing print output, despite his continuing research (he thinks he may have found the solution for sickle cell anemia and psoriasis), he does not look the least bit stressed. As a matter of fact, he looks great. He has skin that glows, a full head of hair and a body that appears well-toned under an impeccably tailored suit.

According to JuE Wong, his senior vice president for global business, Perricone travels with cans of wild Alaskan salmon and sardines. Among his products, he says he personally uses the serum preparation and the facial products from the men's line.

Perricone doesn't encourage interventions that involve injections and surgical procedures. He'd rather you looked in your fridge and your dressing table for a natural facelift.



NYC fans of Perricone's skincare regimen and dietary supplements can shop at Henri Bendel...

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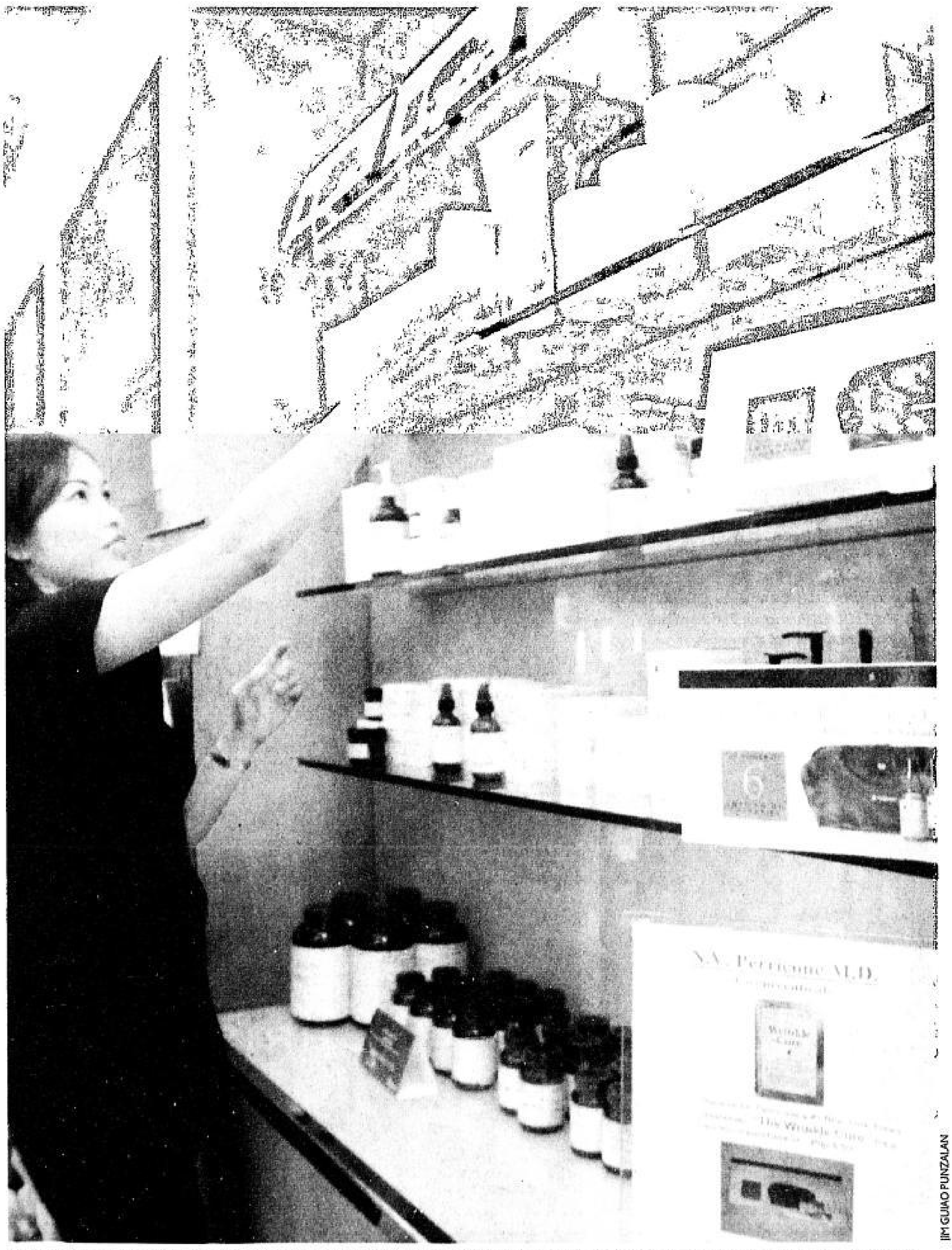

THE NEWLY launched Perricone lines of cosmeceuticals and nutriceuticals in Rustan's Essenses at Ayala Center, Makati City

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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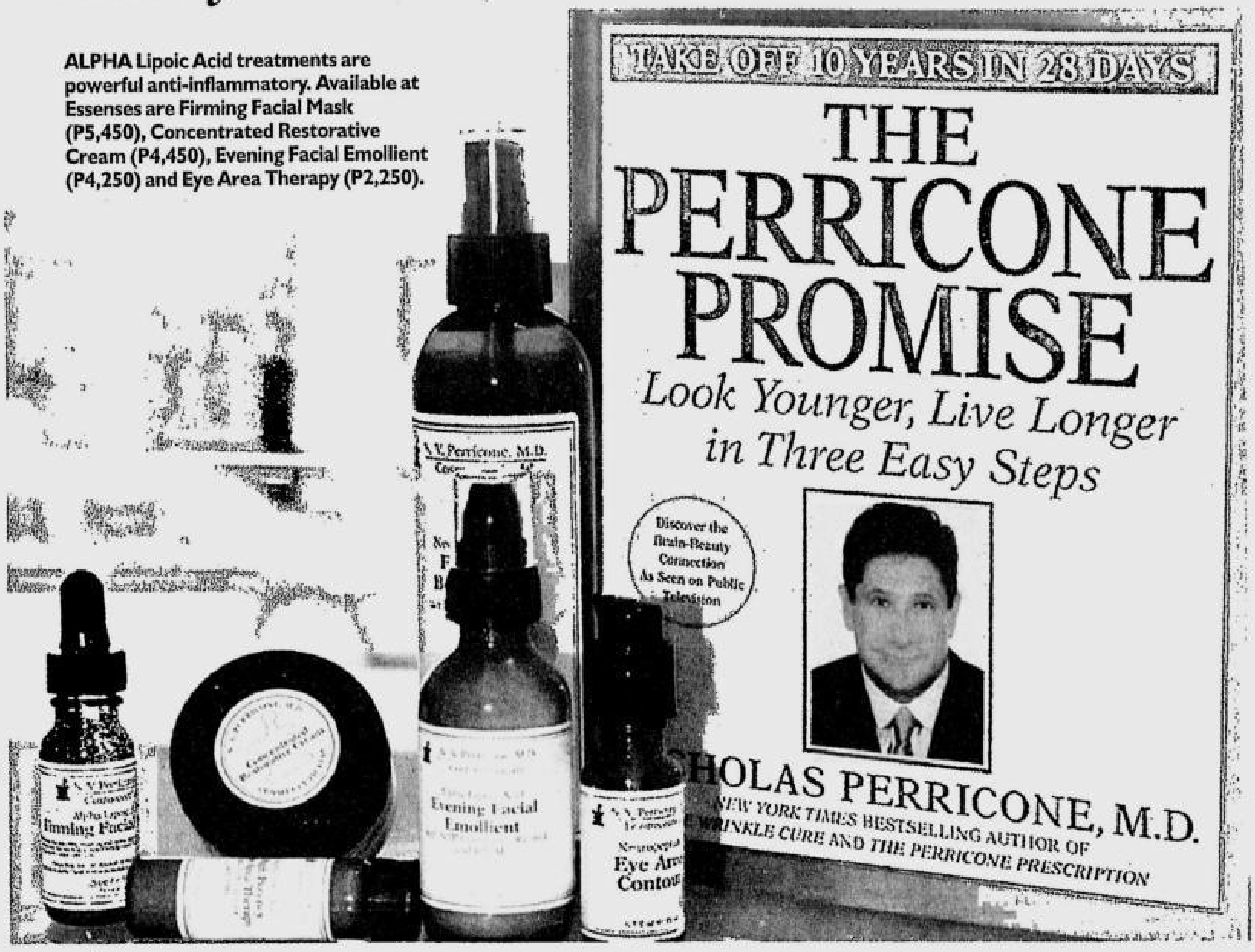
Nicholas Perricone, M.D.
Facial Contour
Firming Body Mist
Facial Conformer
Eye Area Contour
Facial Serum Prep

NEUROPEPTIDE line, the "next generation" of clinical skincare products. Available at Essenses are the Facial Conformer, the Facial Serum Prep, Eye Area Contour and the Eye Area Therapy.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ALPHA Lipoic Acid treatments are powerful anti-inflammatory. Available at Essenses are Firming Facial Mask (P5,450), Concentrated Restorative Cream (P4,450), Evening Facial Emollient (P4,250) and Eye Area Therapy (P2,250).

Wrinkle cures, aging stallers and then some

Dr. Perricone says the three must-haves are the facial wash, the face finishing moisturizer and the advanced face firming activator

"WITH SKIN QUALITY, HEREDity is 40 percent of the equation, but we can control the 60 percent," says Dr. Nicholas V. Perricone.

For that purpose, he developed topical skincare products and nutritional supplements and marketed them under his own name, N.V. Perricone M.D.

Besides the Perricone flagship store in New York, there are 250 distributors for N.V. Perricone M.D. products throughout the United States, including Henri Bendel, Sephora, Saks Fifth Avenue and Bloomingdale's Soho. Bu-Markets outside the US opened in 2004, with the Philippines among the most recent converts.

In the skincare concept the bestsellers, says Perricone, are the lines made with DMAE and with Alpha Lipoic Acid (ALA). DMAE is a vitamin-like ingredient that helps provide a firmer and more youthful appearance. ALA, on the other hand, is a natural substance found in each cell in our body that is a powerful antioxidant.

The brand that Perricone started in 1997 now has about 50 SKUs. But if someone walks up to the Perricone counter at Rustan's Essenses wanting to buy only three of his products, which are the must-haves?

Dr. Perricone recommends the facial wash, the face finishing moisturizer and the advanced face firming activator. All three are available at Rustan's Essenses.

Vitamin C Ester Citrus Facial Wash with DMAE (P1,450 a bottle at Essenses) gently and thoroughly cleanses. Vitamin C Ester, patented exclusive to NVP Cosmeceuticals, is a fat-soluble Vitamin C.

Face Firming Moisturizer with DMAE (P2,650) unites the powerful antioxidant benefits of ALA and Vitamin C Ester to help supply deep, nourishing moisture and give skin a luminous finish.

And Face Firming Activator with NTP Complex (P4,650) is a lightweight daytime formula with ALA, DMAE, glycolic acid and NTP complex that helps improve the skin's resilience and tone while minimizing the appearance of enlarged pores, scarring and discoloration and helps to gently resurface the skin and improve overall texture.

After a brief lifestyle check (sleep, eating and work habits mostly), one hapless Lifestyle editor was given this basic skincare prescription:

Cleanse with Vitamin C Ester Citrus Facial Wash and tone with Facial Firming Toner in the morning and in the evening.

Apply the following active treatments in the morning after cleansing and toning: Neuropeptide Eye Area Contour, ALA Face Firming Activator and the Face Finishing Moisturizer with DMAE or the Active Tinted Moisturizer with sunscreen SPF 15.

In the evening, use these active treatments after cleansing and toning: Neuropeptide Eye Area Contour, Vitamin C Ester Amine Complex Face Lift with NTP Complex and DMAE; Concentrated Restorative Cream-Vitamin E Ester Alpha Lipoic Acid; Evening Facial Emollient with NTP Complex, Retinol and DMAE; and Face Firming Moisturizer with DMAE.

Two or three times a week, use Firming Facial Mask ALA for special care. Body Toning Lotion SPF 15 ALA, on the other hand, is applied as needed after a shower.

All the above are available at Rustan's Essenses, ranging in price from P1,450 to P10,950.

If you can afford it, there is a box of goodies that you might want to try because it is Dr. Perricone's Power Prescription for Perfect Skin. In the box are Neuropeptide Facial Conformer (P25,000 at Essenses), Face Firming Activator with NTP Complex (P4,650) and Concentrated Restorative Cream with NTP Complex (P4,450).

Food supplements that are natural anti-inflammatory are sold under the label N.V. Perricone M.D. Nutriceuticals. Available at Essenses are Omega 3 Dietary Supplement, Super Berry Powder with Acai, Polysaccharide Peptide Blend, Alpha Lipoic Acid and DMAE supplement.

Peptide Blend
N.V. Perricone M.D.
Skin & Total Body
Skin Clear

NUTRITIONAL supplements plus skin and total body diet supplement patented by Perricone. Available at Essenses are Alpha Lipoic Acid (P1,450), Polysaccharide Peptide Blend (P2,950) and Omega 3 dietary supplement (P4,450).

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Gentle Cleanser
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Body Hydrator
Hydrating Nutrient Mask
Face Hydrator

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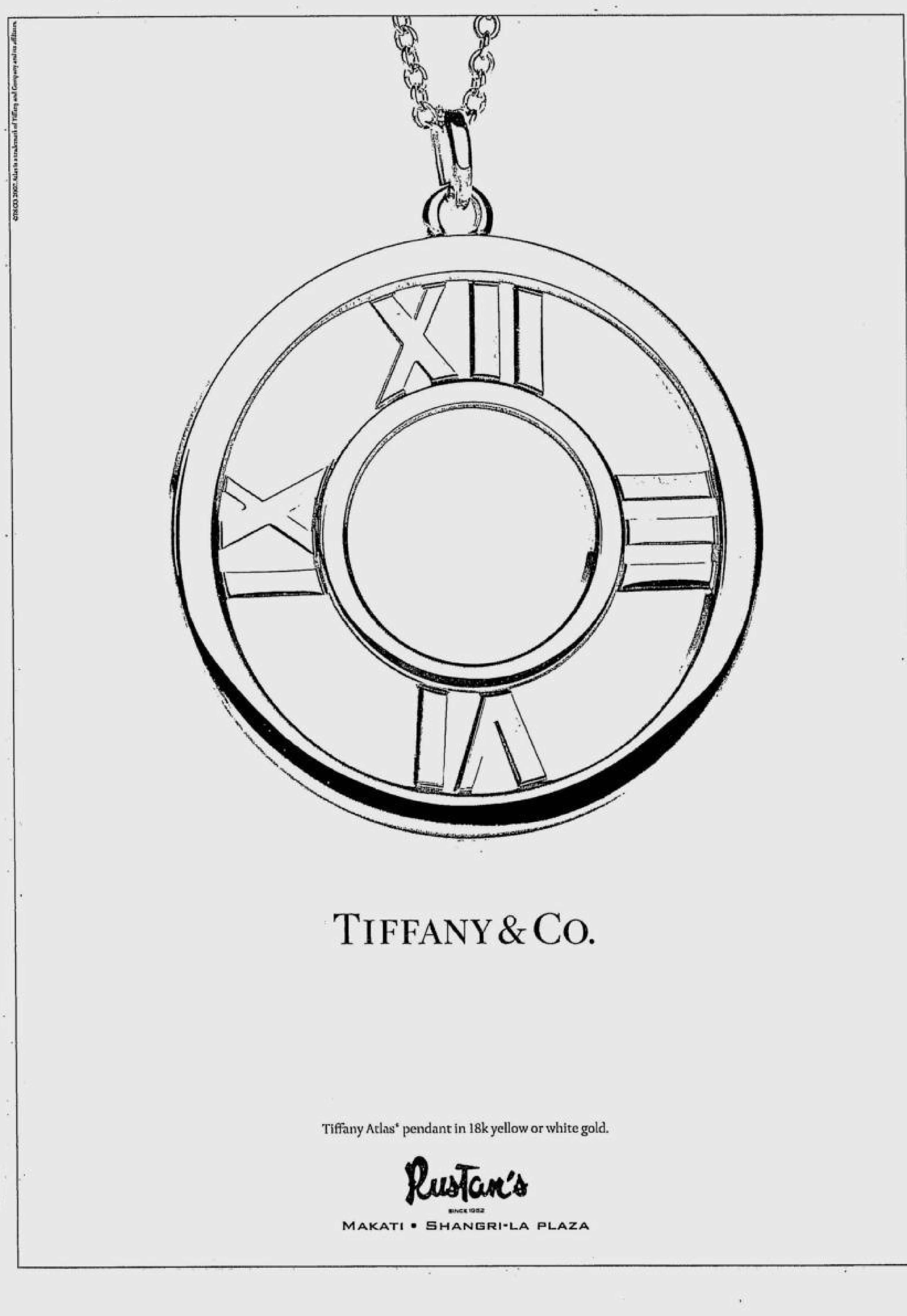
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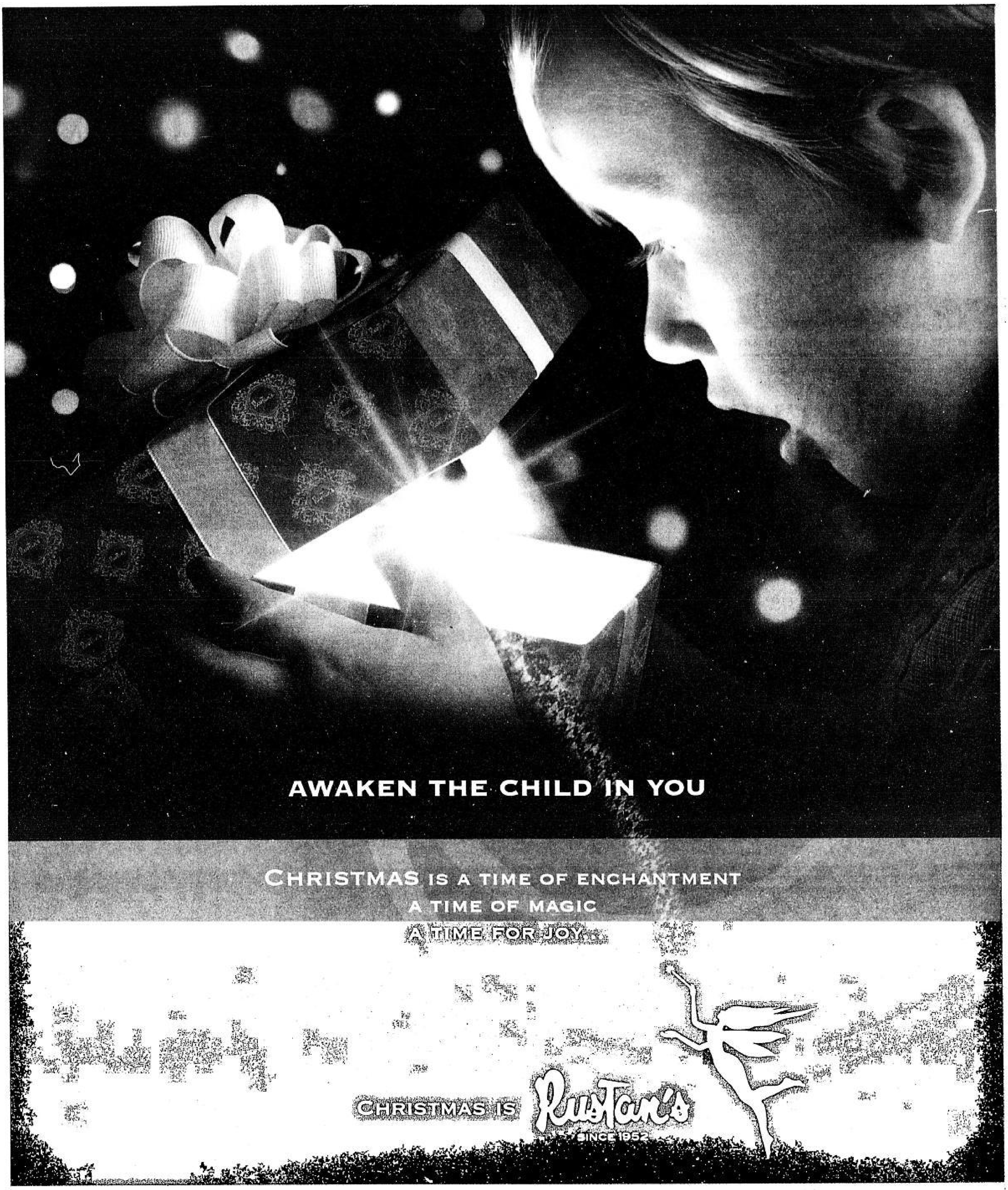
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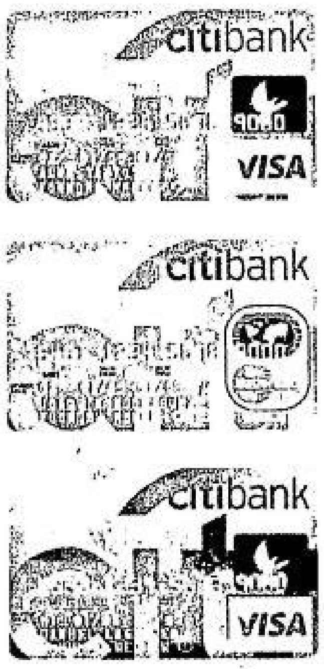
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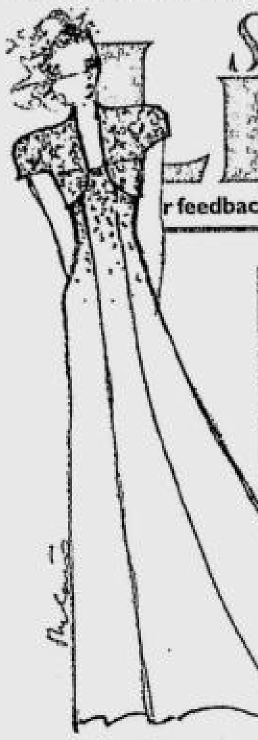

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Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

RABANZO-DEJARME

Henry S. Rabanzo, eldest son of **Mr. and Ms Salvador Rabanzo**, will wed **Anna Margarita O. Dejarme**, eldest daughter of **Gene Dejarme**, on Dec. 29 at the Grand Ballroom, The Bellevue Manila, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Cocktail and lunch reception will immediately follow.

Rey Carino designed the gowns of the bride and the entourage. The silk bridal gown is of princess cut with fully beaded bolero and detachable train.

GREENE-FERMIN

United States Army engineer **Ricky Jacob Greene** of Texas will wed **Janit Fermin** of Quezon City on Nov. 30, 4 p.m., at Soka Gakkai International Philippines, 66 Timog Ave., QC. To be solemnized by Buddhist priest **Yasonori Takimoto**, principal sponsors are **Carlo A. Asturias, Aquilino O. Labrador, Rizal K. Shibata, Serapion S. Metilla, Juliet V. Bangyan, Lolita M. Cristobal, Sachiko Maegawa** and **Paz L. Ong**. Reception will follow at Mr. Hardinero, 363 Quezon Ave., QC.

BAUTISTA-SALVADOR

Harold Paulo Bautista, son of Drs **Hermenegildo** and **Blanquita Bautista** of Binalonan, Pangasinan, will wed **Ma. Theresa Salvador**, daughter of **Oscar** and **Teresita Salvador** of Iligan City, on Nov. 24 at the Archbishop's Palace, Mandaluyong City. Reception will follow at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

FAUSTINO-CANDELARIA

Jeffrey Faustino, son of **Romeo** and **Janelyn Faustino**, wed recently **Rhea Candelaria**, daughter of **Ramon** and **Victoria Candelaria**, at St. Francis of Assisi Chapel Fernwood. Reception was held at Cycad Garden, Fernwood.

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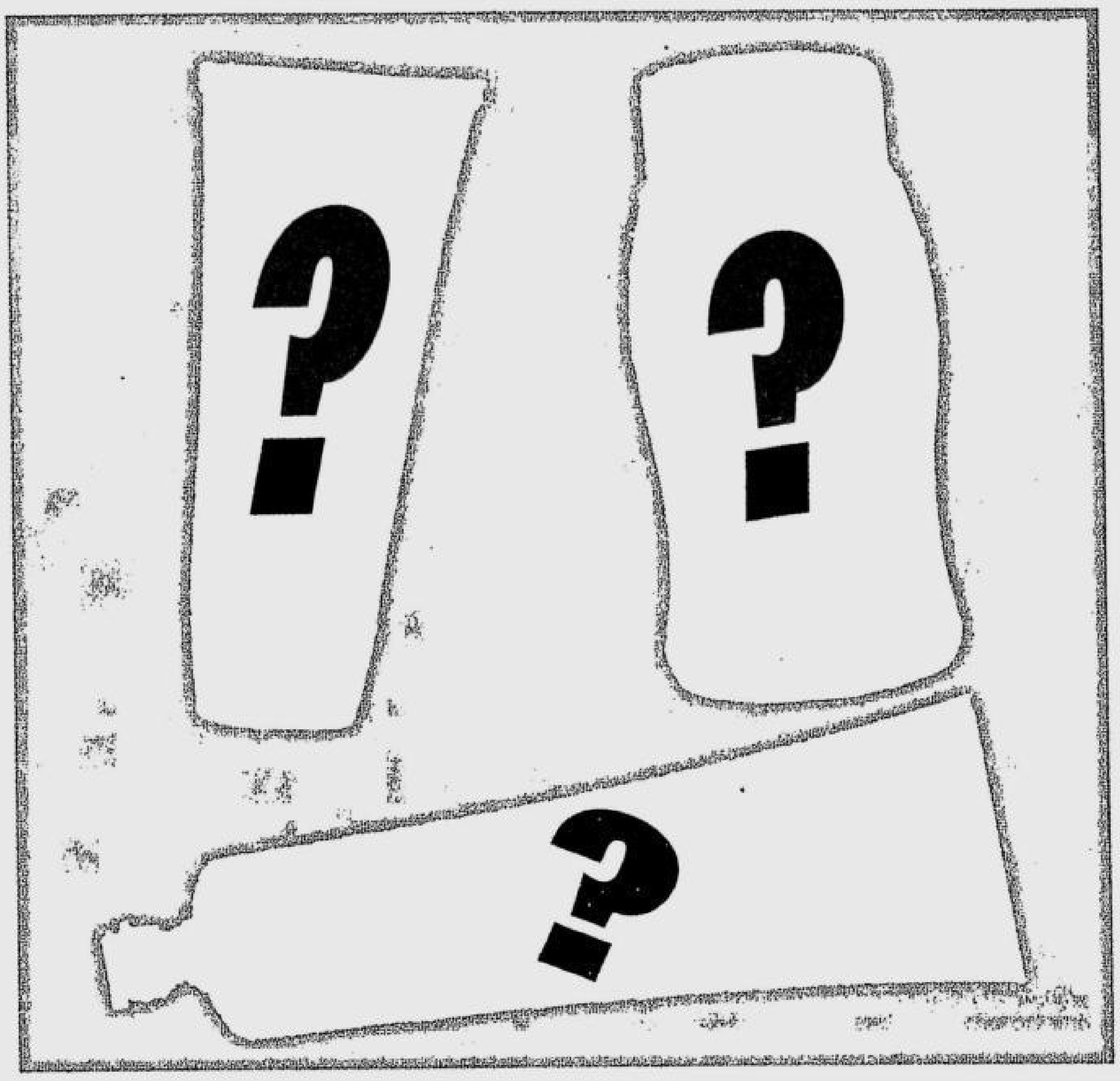

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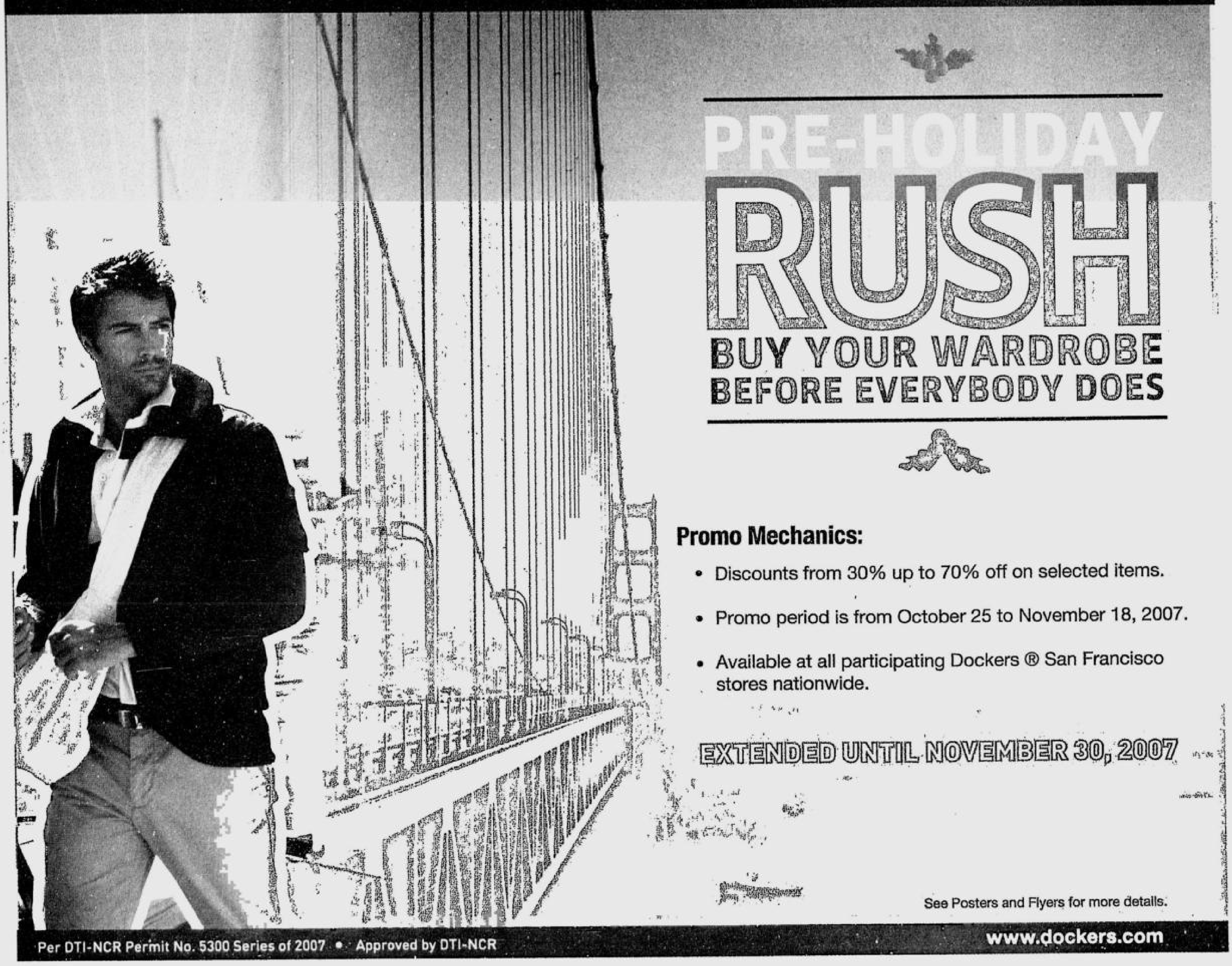

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Filipinos atte
# of San Lorenzo R

FILIPINO-AMERICANS FROM New York led by Fr. Erno Diaz and some from the Philippines attended in Rome the 20th anniversary of the canonization in 1987 of San Lorenzo Ruiz by Pope John Paul II.

Fr. Diaz, director of the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz in New York, officiated in the concelebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. The chapel's choir sang. Devotees from other parts of the United States, Canada and Italy attended.

Jose Ramos, a trustee of the Philippine Pastoral Center in New York led the prayer. Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See Leonida Vera made the arrangements.

About the saint

San Lorenzo Ruiz was born in Binondo, Manila and died in 1637 in Nagasaki, Japan. He was a layman, married with two sons and a daughter.

Educated in the Dominican school, he was an altar boy then helper and clerk-sacristan in the church of Binondo. He was also a member of the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary.

He left the country in 1636 after he became involved or was accused of involvement in a crime. He feared he would be meted the death sentence.

But in Japan, where Christians were being persecuted, he and his companions were immediately arrested, imprisoned and tortured.

In 1637, he, Fray Domingo and 14 others were led up a hill overlooking Nagasaki Bay. Ruiz valiantly confessed his Christian Faith and told his executioners he was ready to die for God.

"Deny your faith and we will spare your life," he was told. But Ruiz answered, "I will never do it. I am a Catholic and happy to die for God. If I have a thousand lives to offer, I will offer them to God."

Special concert

The Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz Choir performed at a special concert "Sanlibong Buhay" at Sentro Pilipino in the Santa Pudenziana Church in Rome.

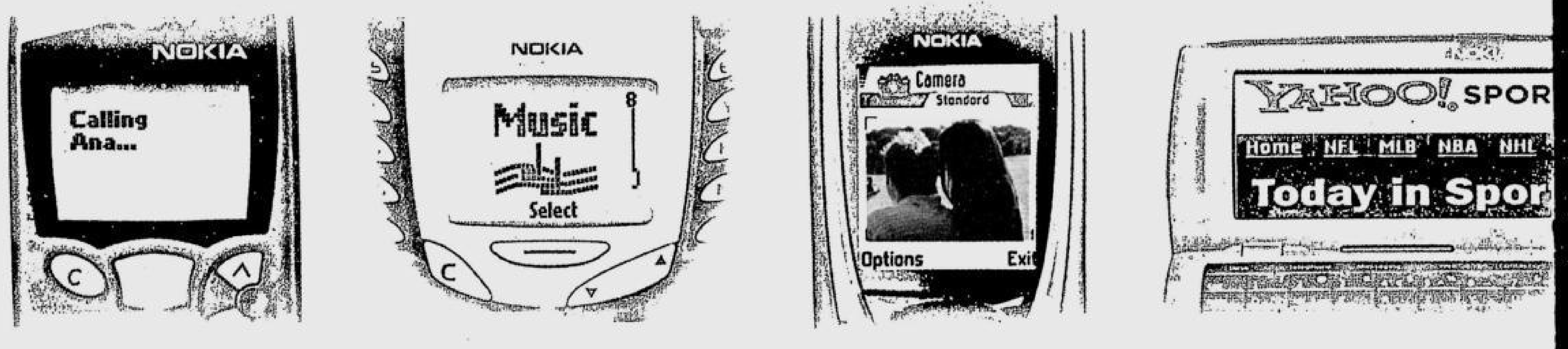
The successful event enhanced the celebration, complementing the morning Mass.

The choir is directed by Cora Haguisan. Members are Joanne Canicula, Joy Uy, alto; AJ Camacho, Jason Duterte, Gerry Ortizo, Lino Siason, bass; Cecille Dacudao, Bibi Ferrer-Uy, sopranos; Armel Martinez, Macky Salcedo, tenors.

Father Diaz collaborated with Father Romeo Velos, chaplain of the Sentro Pilipino, on the goodwill concert. Father Diaz hopes the New York chapel and Sentro Pilipino will eventually effect a "twinning."

Kerygma conference

Healer priest Fr. Joey Faller will lead the healing Mass during the Kerygma Conference presided by author and preacher Bo Sanchez, Nov. 23-25, at the Ultra in Pasig City. Concelebrating are missionary priests Fr. Joseph Skelton of the United States and Fr. Steve Tynan of



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FR. ERNO Diaz (standing, ninth from right) with pilgrims from New York in St. Peter's Square

Australia.

Theme of the conference is "You Have the Power: Be Nourished. Empowered. Unleashed." The conference will address those who suffer hunger, weakness and imprisonment of the spirit in the midst or because of the technology revolution.

Fr. Faller will pray over the sick before the Mass ends.

The Conference opens Nov. 23, 5 p.m., with inspirational songs by El Shaddai Music Ministry.

Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, celebrates at 7 p.m. the opening Mass. The opening worship led by singer-actor lay evangelist Adrian Panganiban follows. Tickets, available at all Yoshinoya outlets, sell for P500 each. Call 7259999.

Feast

The devotion to Our Lady of Light was introduced in 1727 in Cainta, Rizal. The parish will celebrate the feast of the Virgin on Dec. 1 with the unveiling of her newly restored Fernando Amorsolo icon.

Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes will officiate at 5 p.m. in the concelebrated Mass. Co-celebrants are Parañaque Auxiliary Bishop Francisco de Leon and Msgr. Arnel Lagarejos, parish priest.

Job needed

Christopher Sicam seeks help for hearing-impaired Jasper Jade Oandasan who finds it hard to get a job. A graduate of hotel and restaurant management, he is the eldest of two sons. His parents manage a store in their Laguna town. His younger brother is still in college.

To help, e-mail crismarc77@yahoo.com or text 0920-5234480.

Home for the elderly

Fr. Efren de Guzman, SVD, runs Tahanan ni Maria complex for the elderly in Carmona, Cavite with lots of faith and hope that there would be enough food for the 50 women and 20 men there. Most of the residents were abandoned by their families.

I was there many years ago with the Friends of St. Joseph to give them Christmas lunch and I felt the loneliness in the place.

The Society of St. Expeditus is going to bring them some Christmas cheer on Nov. 30.

In the meantime, can some kind readers donate rice and canned goods? Those who wish to donate checks can put it in the name of Tahanan ni Maria. Text 0905-2424940.

Ongoing at the Gallery 9 in SM Megamall is Danny Reyes del Sol's exhibit of dimension carving of religious images, patterns and landscapes.

Msgr. Mariano Balbago Jr., parish priest of Our Lady of the Abandoned Church in Marikina, will talk on St. Expeditus, today, 7-8 p.m., on Radio Veritas (846 AM). The "San Expedito, ang Santong Madaling Lapitan" radio program is aired every third Sunday of the month. Charismatic priest Fr. Diwane Cacao will do "healing on the air."

The lay Missionaries of Mary are conducting a Marian seminar today at the Manresa retreat house.

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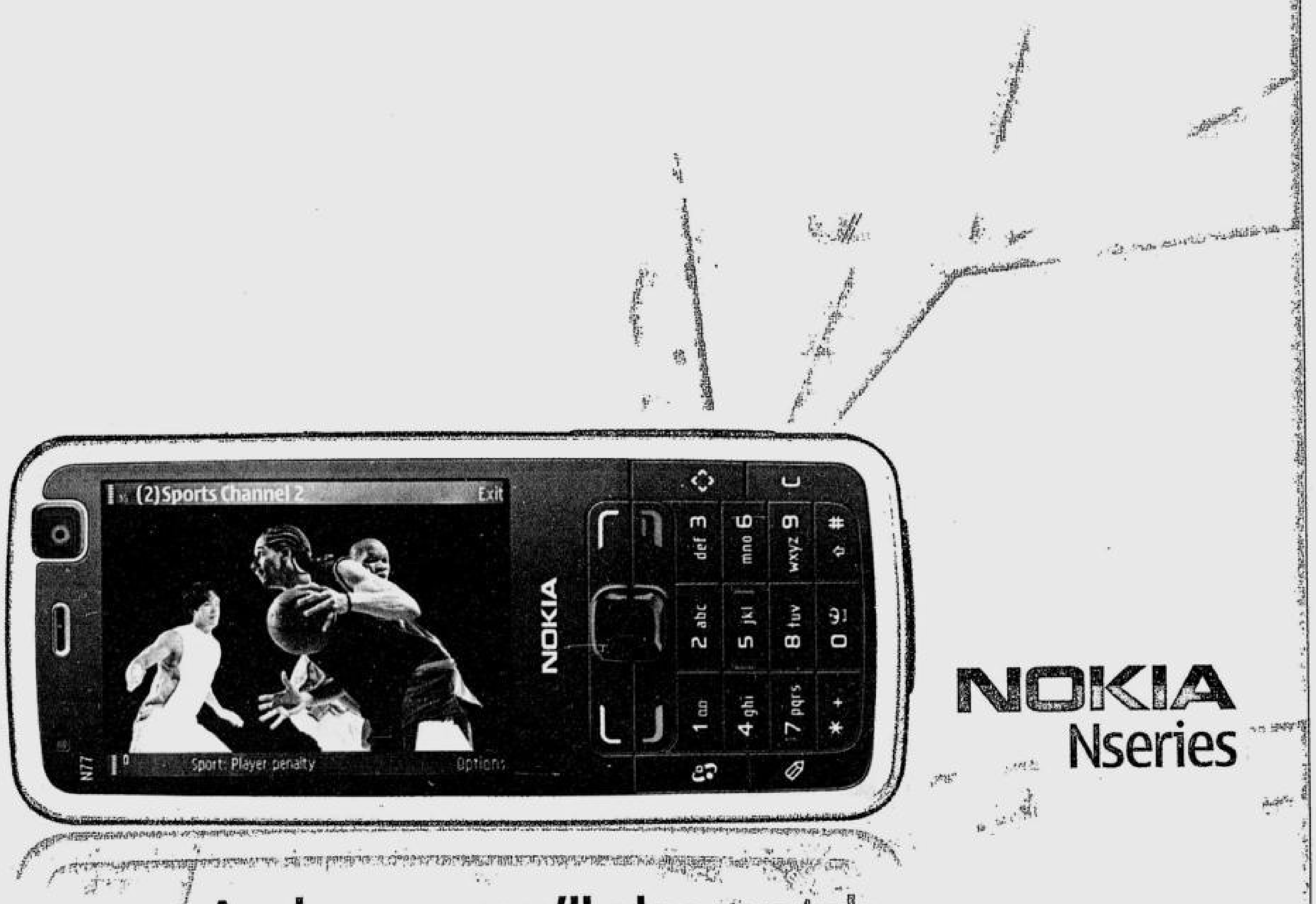

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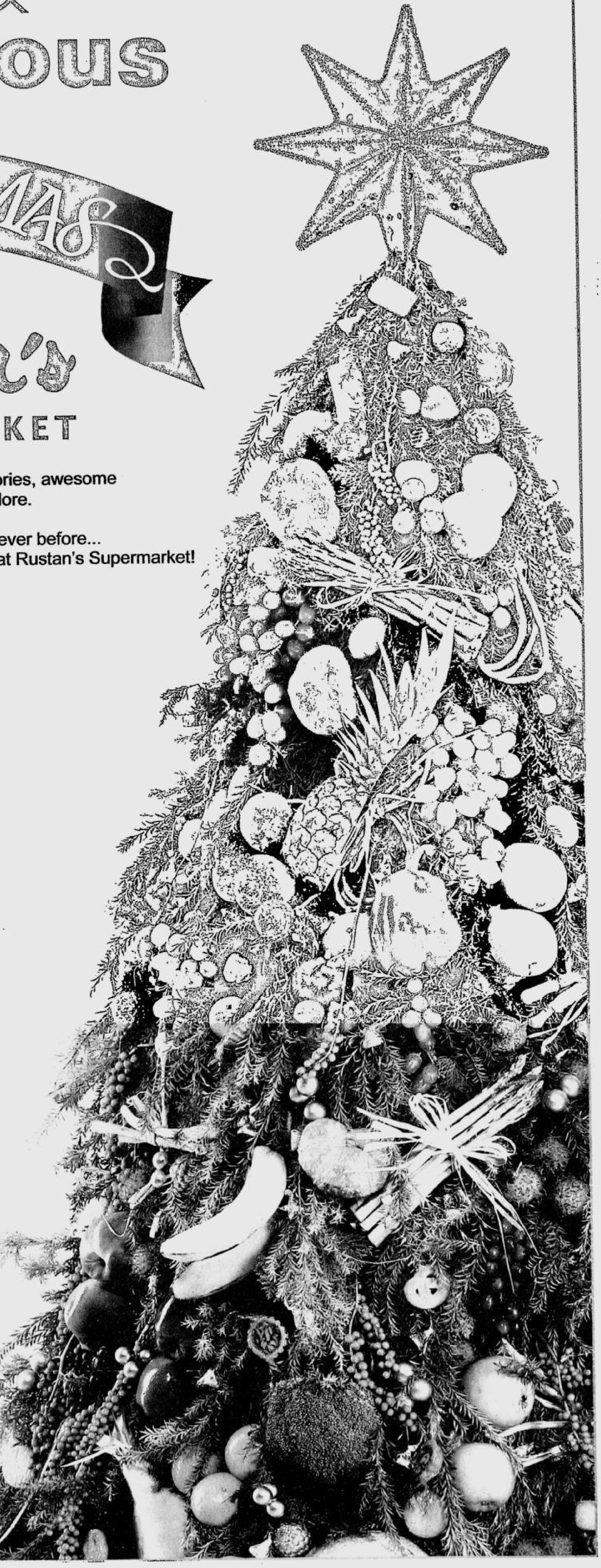

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Sunday LifeStyle Travel

Honeymoon island

SNOW-COVERED landscape of Mt. Hallasan in winter is a must-see for Jeju tourists.

COURTESY OF JEJU SPECIAL SELF-GOVERNING PROVINCIAL TOURISM ASSOCIATION

For the past two decades, Korean newlyweds have made romantic Jeju-do a top destination. Now Philippine Airlines flies direct to the island

Text and photos by Mary Ann I. Rañola

IT ISN'T JUST THE SEASON OF Christmas trees and mistletoes drawing near. It's also that of wedding bells and honeymoons—December coincidentally being the month of choice among marrying Filipino couples.

Special occasions celebrated in tandem warrants a destination that's doubly special. With affordable yet by-now overly familiar travel options in Asia, wouldn't it be nice to find an alternative?

Jeju-do ("do" means island), dubbed as Korea's Island of Love, is the perfect destination for honeymoons. For the past two decades, Korean newlyweds have made this semi-tropical island its honeymoon haven.

During spring and summer (March-August), flights to Jeju are said to be fully packed, with each plane brimming with lovebirds. Traveling alone would be twice as lonely with the only empty seat next to you.

Next month, Filipinos will finally get the chance to visit or honeymoon on Jeju. Philippine Airlines is launching direct flights to Jeju beginning Dec. 15 until Jan. 12. For this trial period, Rakso Travel, a Philippine-based Korean agency is offering package tours for as low as US$550 per head for a stay of four days and three nights, including round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations, meals and fees.

Jeju is the largest island in Korea. With a population of 562,000 and area of 1,848 km, it is three times the size of Singapore.

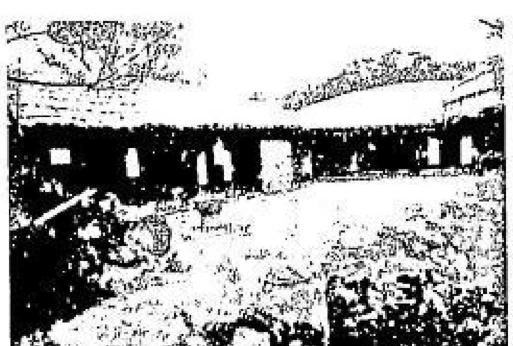
The idyllic beaches are perfect for long drives and evening strolls. Mostly a sleepy town, Jeju has hardly a bar, disco, or any semblance of the usual island nightlife. But blessed with scenic views, interesting museums and cultural sites, the list of things to do, places to visit and photo opportunities are endless.

Koreanovela setting

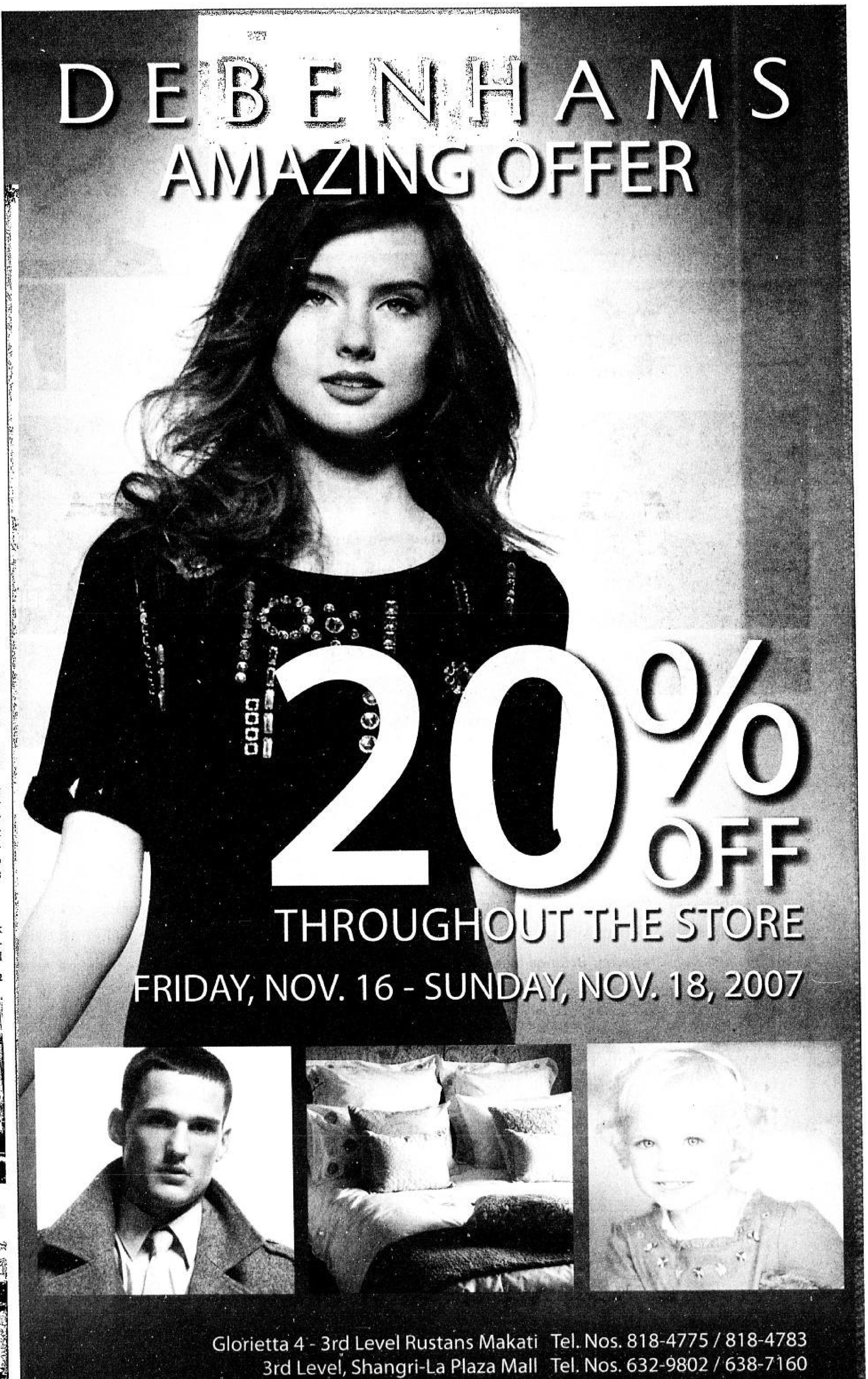
To give you a general idea of Jeju, think of Koreanovelas shown on cable TV. Because of its cultural attractions and natural

HONEYMOON/ E2

"JEWEL in the Palace" was set in the Folk Village Museum. Drama sites are among the much-visited places.



STRAW-THATCHED houses are another well-preserved natural beauty of Jeju.



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Honeymoon island

From page E1

ELVIS Presley is among the many celebrities featured in the Teddy Bear Museum.

romantic feel, Jeju has served as the setting for several Korean TV dramas and movies, such as "Jewel in the Palace" and "Princess Hours." Tourists have increased in number due to these much-talked-about sites.

Cruising through the roads of Jeju, one cannot miss the stretch of tea fields and tangerine farms on the sides of the street, or the stone statues that locals believe to be their guardians.

Straw-thatched houses as seen in "Jewel in the Palace" are just part of the well-preserved natural beauty of Jeju.

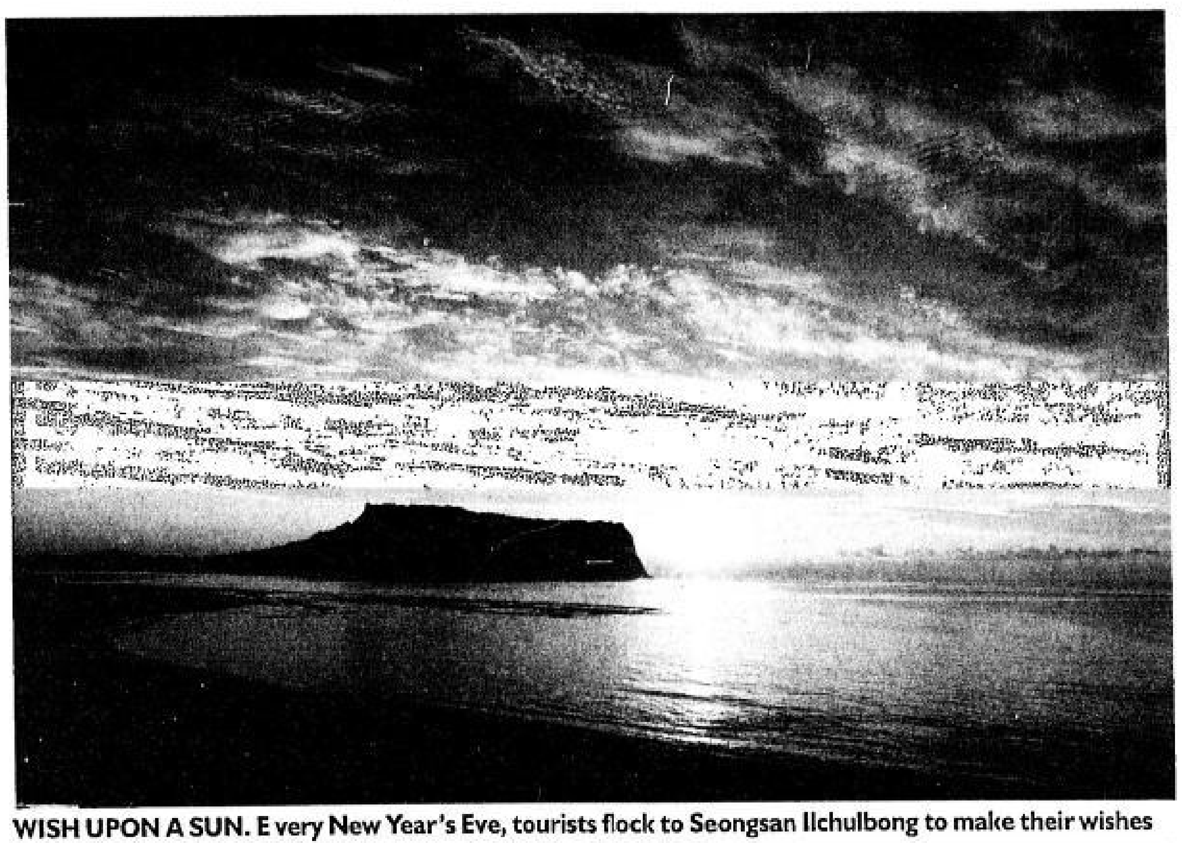
These houses, along with traditional artifacts such as water jars, stone fences and toilets are kept intact in the Folk Village Museum.

Stepping into this spacious cultural area is like seeing the Jeju of 100 years ago. And you cannot take two steps without seeing stone in all incarnations—from stone fences built around farmlands and houses to the strange "boy statues" said to serve as guardians in gravesites.

Jeju's well-preserved status extends to its natural formations. Just last June, the volcanic island and its rare lava tubes were inscribed in Unesco's World Natural Heritage List. These natural formations are Korea's first inclusions in the world heritage list.

Mt. Hallasan, seated at the heart of Jeju and the highest peak in Korea at 1,950 meters, has scattered around it some

HONEYMOON/ E4



WISH UPON A SUN. Every New Year's Eve, tourists flock to Seongsan Ilchulbong to make their wishes upon sunrise for a blessed year ahead.

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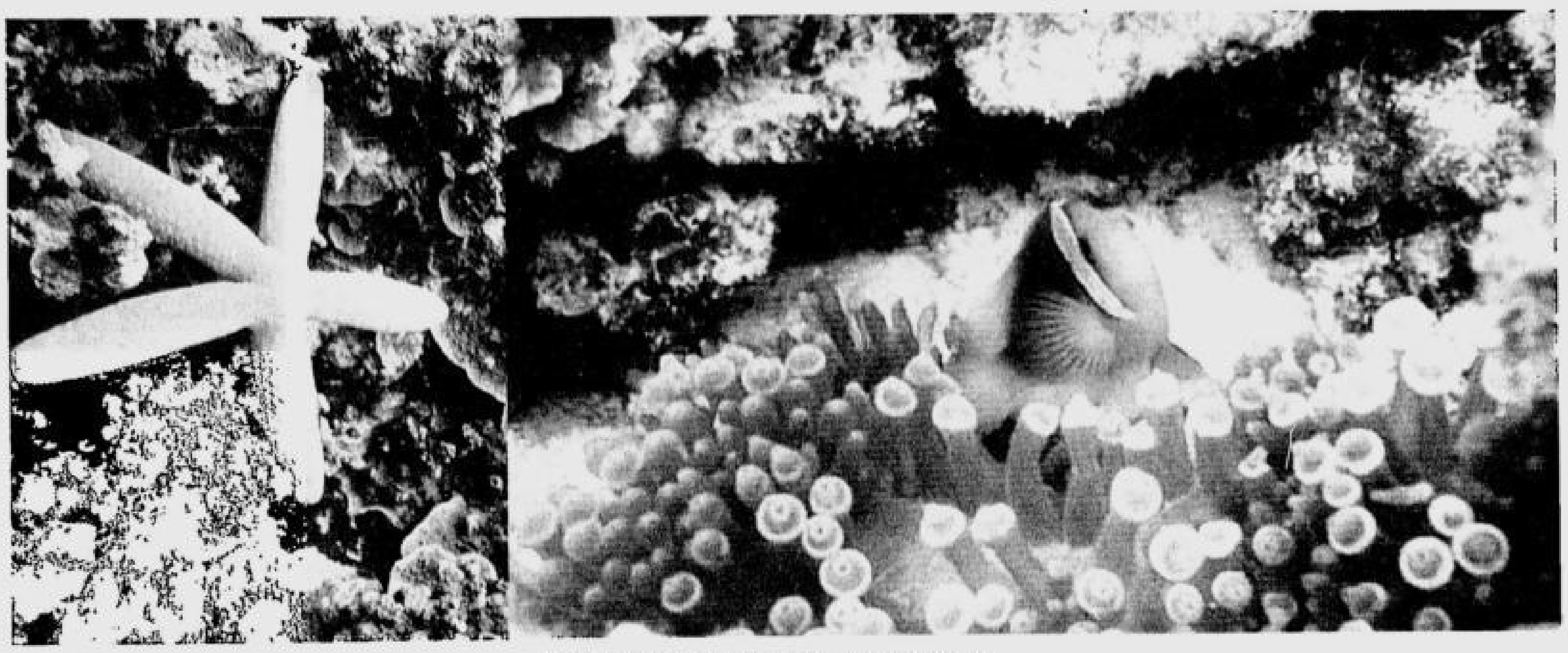

OCEAN ADVENTURE IN BOHOL
Amorita Beach Resort on Panglao in Bohol has opened a marine activity center in partnership with the Bohol Oceanic Adventure (BOA). BOA, which is affiliated with Professional Association of Diving Instructors (Padi), will guide tourists in enjoying underwater adventure. The activity center will rent out equipment and facilities. Call 9140585, e-mail inquiries@amoritaresort.com or visit www.amoritaresort.com.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Thanksgiving shopping spree

SHOPAHOLICS HAVE ONE GOOD reason to visit Guam. Its unique duty-free status means import tariffs are not added on many international brands of watches, perfumes, leather, spirits and other luxury items. It is having a shopper's spree sale on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22. Considered the hub of the Western Pacific and Micronesia, Guam is three hours away via direct flights on Continental Airlines and Philippine Airlines. Call Guam Visitors Bureau Philippines at 7277755 or visit www.visitguam.org.

Fun time at Meralco center

The Meralco Development Center (MMLDC) has become a popular venue for fun group team-building activities. Its outdoor amenities like the paintball ground and the high ropes, and indoor facilities like swimming pool, billiard tables and gym help foster ties among diverse groups like call-center agents, sales people, even teachers and principals. MMLDC's facilities can accommodate large groups of people. The center can custom-fit packages depending on a company's requirements. Call 6328111, fax 6961027, e-mail mmldc.marketing@meralco.com.ph or visit www.mmldc.org.

Showcasing RP marine life

The Department of Tourism recently highlighted the country's premier dive sites and first-class diving resorts at the Dive Equipment and Marketing Association Show in Orlando, Florida. Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said the diverse and colorful marine life in the Philippines had always been a major attraction for water-sports enthusiasts around the world. Represented in the expo were Activentures Philippines, Boardwalk Dive Center, Rajah Tours, Marco Vincent Resort and Dive Center, Aquatec.

Miss Earth candidates feted

Splendido Taal Residential, Golf and Country Club recently hosted some Miss Earth candidates. Led by Jaka president and chief executive officer Katrina Ponce Enrile, senior executives of the company welcomed contestants from Australia, Czech Republic, South Africa, Venezuela, Vietnam and the Philippines. The women participated in a tree-planting ceremony spearheaded by Jaka chair Cristina Castaner Ponce Enrile.

CEBU Pacific now flies to Macau Special Administrative Region or Macau SAR. Narzalina Z. Lim, general manager of the Macau Government Tourist Office-Philippines, hailed Cebu Pacific's recent inaugural flight from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport as an event to be recorded in local aviation history, being the first time that a Philippine carrier was flying direct to Macau from Manila. Described by Lim as one of Asia's must-see destinations, Macau is a family destination with many new attractions. There is the Macau Fisherman's Wharf, the city's first theme park, a bustling complex with entertainment venues, retail shops, restaurants, hotel and marina in its 93,000-sqm site. Its central location in the outer harbor makes it easily accessible, being only five minutes away from the Macau Ferry Terminal. Call 8122595 or 8130947; visit www.macautourism.gov.mo.

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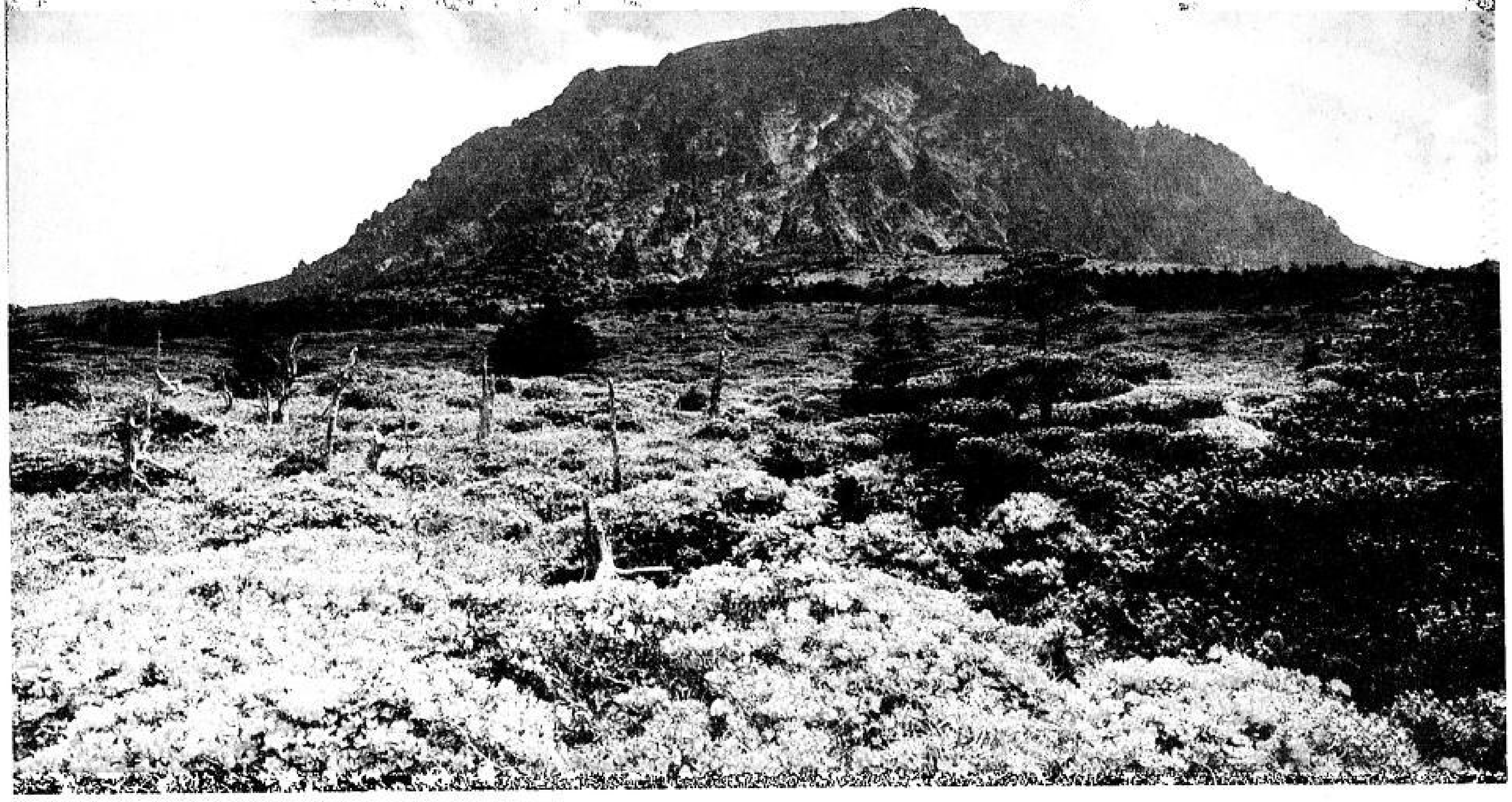
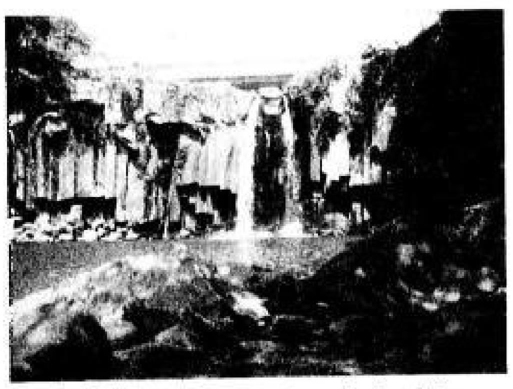
Honeymoon island



AN ENDLESS view of azaleas on Mt. Hallasan in spring

COURTESY OF JEJU SPECIAL SELF-GOVERNING PROVINCIAL TOURISM ASSOCIATION



CHEONJIYEON Falls is a favorite backdrop among honeymooners' photo ops.

From page E2

368 peaks and unusual rock formations, which locals refer to as 500 "Nahan" (young men or generals in Korean).

Despite its high altitude, Mt. Hallasan has four seasons like the rest of the island. With every turn of the season, the mountain's color changes, providing tourists a different scenic view every few months, from earth tones to snowcapped vistas. Climbing Mt. Hallasan is one of the top activities in Jeju.

Another stunning view and world heritage site is the Seongsan Ilchulbong. Popular for its beautiful sunrise, it is the most photographed and most-visited attraction in the island.

Tourists come in droves on New Year's Eve to await the turn of the year. Upon seeing the first sunrise at Seongsan, they make their wishes for a blissful year ahead.

Two sex museums

True to being a honeymoon island, Jeju houses two museums entirely devoted to sex: the Jeju Loveland and Museum of Sex and Health. The traditionally taboo topic of sex is reinterpreted through no-holds-barred works of art. Though the sculptures and displays can be graphic, these museums are designed not so much to titillate as to educate.

While Loveland is an outdoor sculpture park—the only one in Korea—where tourists can touch the artworks, the Museum of Sex and Health offers a more sophisticated and more educational experience.

Another must-see museum, wholesome and family-friendly this time, is the Teddy Bear Museum. It is popular for being the set of the "Princess Hours" Koreanovela and the larger one of only two such museums in the world (the other one is in England).

Opened in Jeju in April 2004, it is a unique museum dedicated solely to that famous stuffed toy, the Teddy Bear. Two fascinating galleries offer a total of 1,300 exhibits of significant events and personalities over the past 100 years. Each display is beautifully crafted and precisely detailed, so that one can easily tell what event it depicts without even looking at the title.

The displays begin with the year 1908 when the first mass-produced passenger car, the Model T Ford, was created, with teddy bears of a miniature village huddling together to examine the vehicle.

In separate displays, teddy bears in the likeness of celebrities such as Charlie Chaplin, Elvis Presley and Michael Jordan are also displayed. In fact, almost everyone famous can be found at the Teddy Bear Museum.

There are plenty of hotels in Jeju with accommodations ranging from lavish to value-for-money. There are seven five-star hotels, three four-star and four three-star in the island.

Philippine Airlines flies to Jeju twice a week. Call its 24-hour hotline at 8558888. Call Rakso Travel at 8129667.

E-mail the author at maranola@inquirer.com.ph

ONE of many romantic sculptures lining the pathways to the Museum of Sex and Health

DEFEAT DIABETES TOGETHER

unite for diabetes

Unite for Diabetes
Gimik Diabetes WDD Celebration
SMX Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia
November 11, 1:00 pm

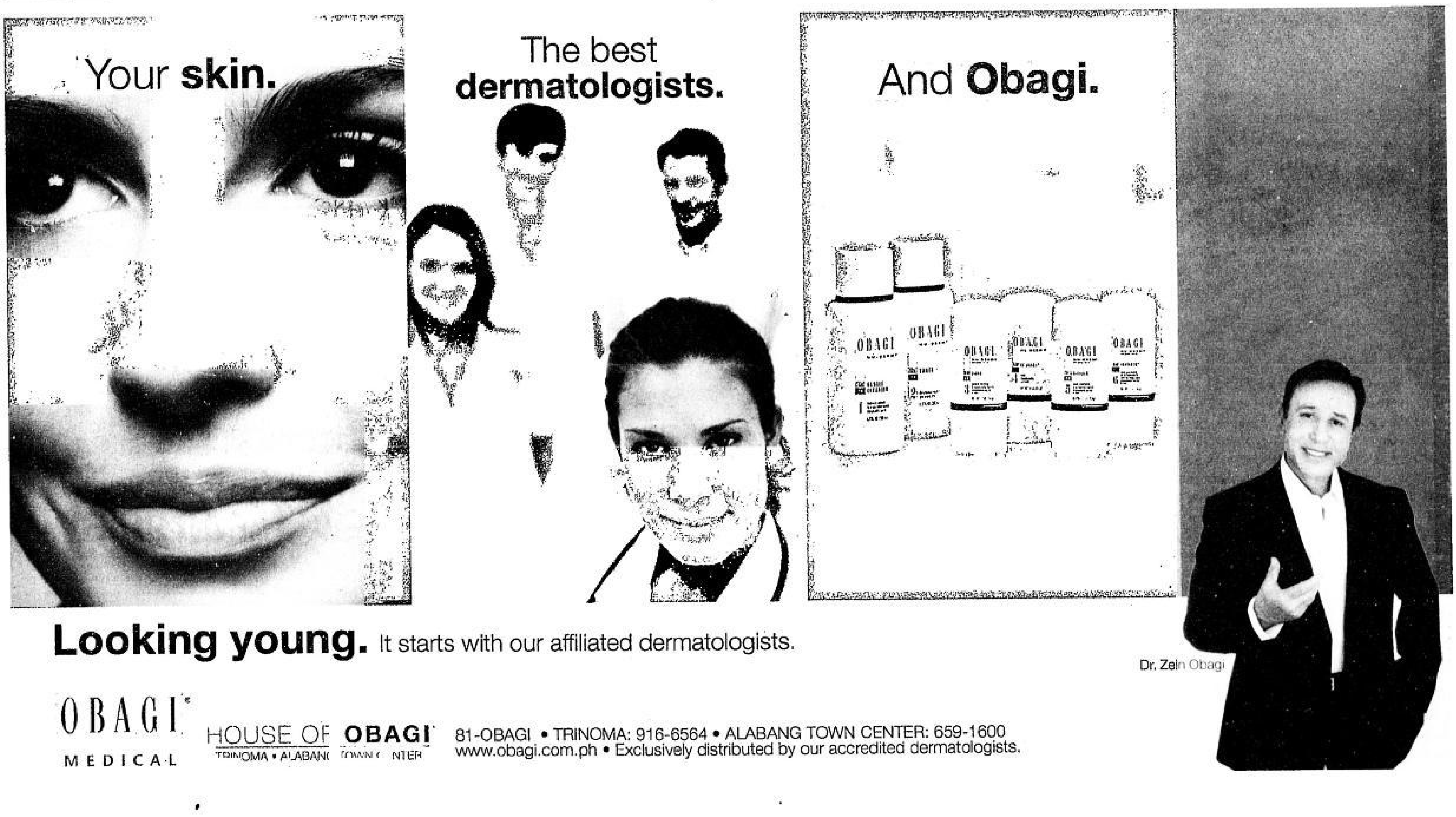
PDA Philippine Diabetes Association
2007 PDA Annual Convention & 3rd Course on Diabetes & Vascular Disease
Century Park Hotel
November 20 - 23

PSEM Philippine Society of Endocrinology & Metabolism
Go Bike Pilipinas 2007
One Esplanade SM MOA, Metro Manila
Lagoon Bacolod, Capitol Cagayan de Oro
November 11, 6:00 am
Hawak Kamay Diabetes Warrior Program
Bayanihan Hall Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas
November 12, 8:00 am

ISDF UERMMMC - Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc.
Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics
14th Philippine Diabetes Congress
Pasig-Rizal High School Gymnasium, Pasig
November 18, 7:00 am

PCDEF Philippine Center for Diabetes Education Foundation, Inc.
The Diabetes Center
National Assembly of Diabetes Educators 2007
Century Park Hotel
November 19, 8:00 am

world diabetes day
ACCU-CHEK Advantage
ACCU-CHEK Active
Roche



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'Beautiful home' of woodcraft and batik

Pondok Indah deals exclusively in Indonesian furniture and home accessories

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Ryan Lim

THE very solid piece of teak cabinet is made specifically for compact discs. It can hold up to 500 pieces.

IF YOU ARE INTO SOLID, sturdy Indonesian wood furniture, you may want to visit Pondok Indah on the second floor of Serendra at the Fort.

Whether it is antique or new pieces you want, the store that carries exclusively Indonesian furniture and home accessories may already have them or can get them for you.

Owner Juan Naval says he has associates in different parts of Indonesia who keep him updated on what is available in the market there or can find what local clients are looking for.

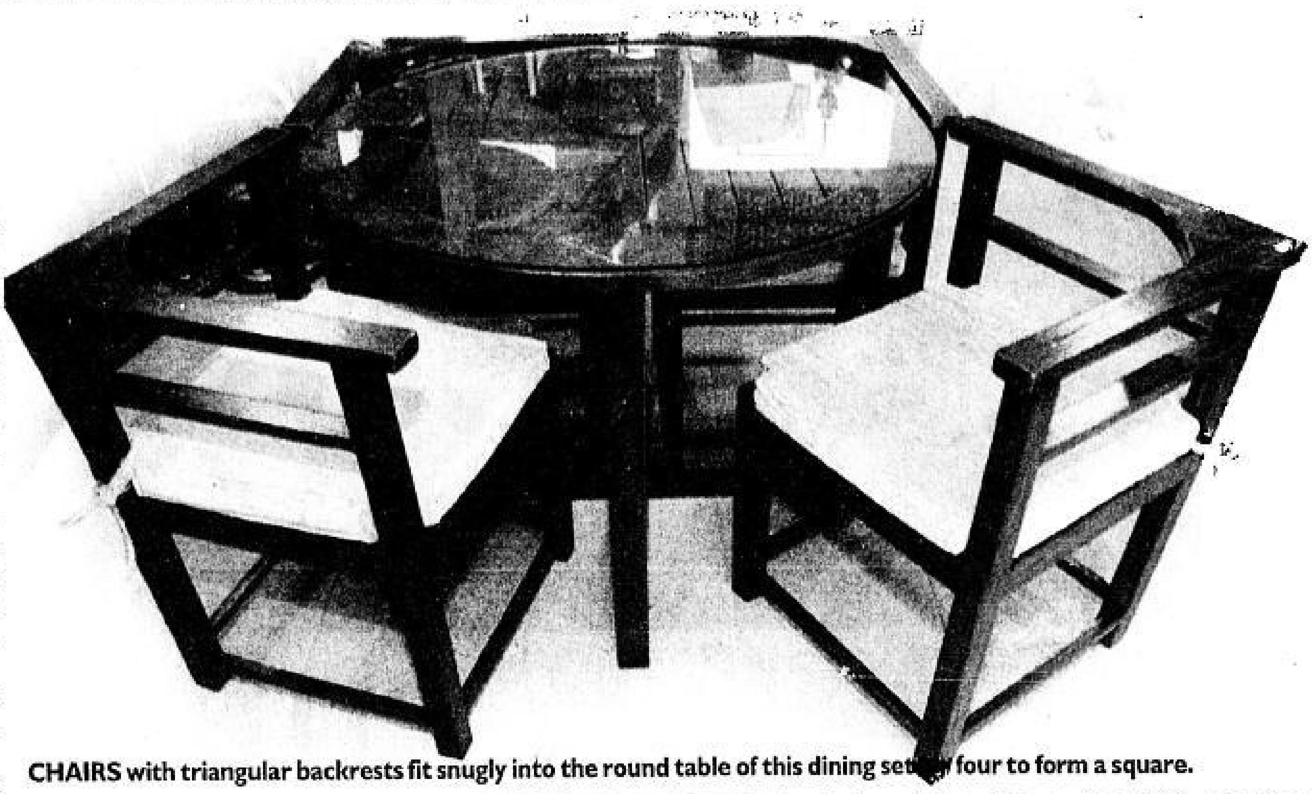
Naval said they dealt directly with craftsmen and artisans, not middlemen, so items were less expensive.

The months-old store was borne out of Naval's frustration at not being able to find the pieces he wanted for the house he and his wife were building.

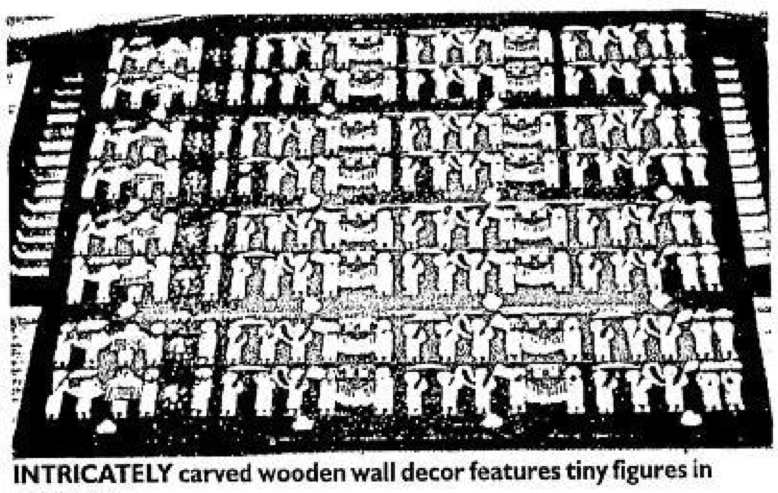
The former director of audio-visual presentations said he fell in love with Indonesian furniture when his wife was working in that country. "I always liked wood and Indonesian craftsmanship is good," he said.

But he found that local stores carrying so-called Asian pieces did not have real furniture but mainly knick-knacks that were basically the same.

So, after developing sources as he furnished his home, he decided to take his new interest a step further by opening a full-fledged store. Pondok Indah roughly translates into a beautiful one-story home or bungalow.



CHAIRS with triangular backrests fit snugly into the round table of this dining set [illegible] four to form a square.



INTRICATELY carved wooden wall decor features tiny figures in batik hues.

Besides, "many stores are already selling Filipino things," he explained his decision.

Naval assures prospective clients their prices are reasonable compared to other importers.

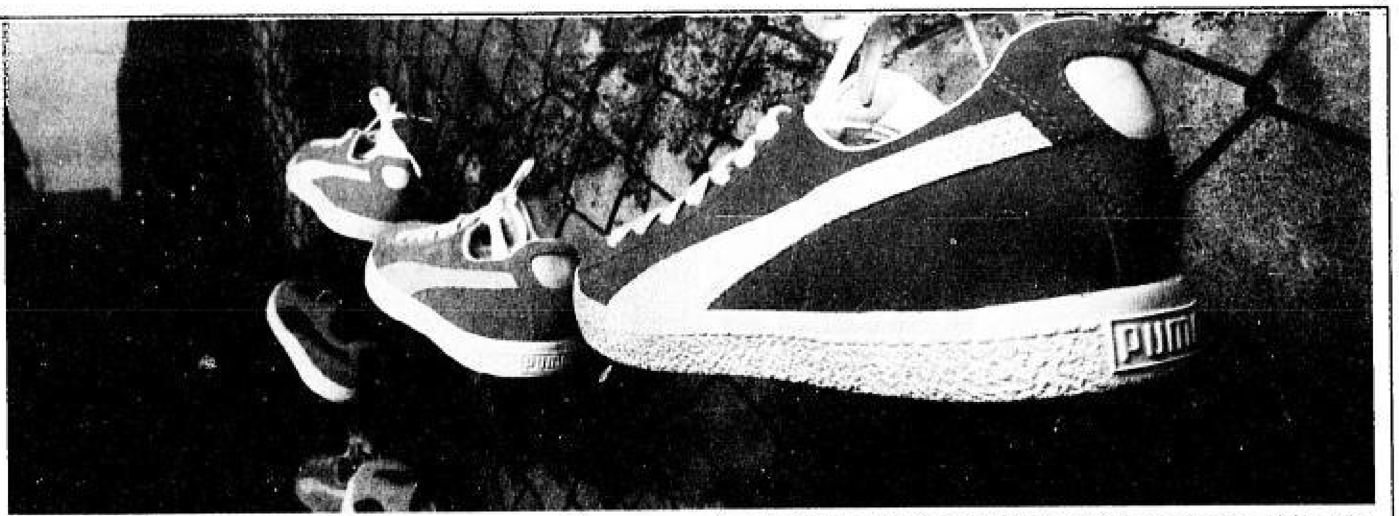
Carrying a wide range of items from furniture to things designed primarily to be conversation pieces, prices also vary widely from the P100 wood letter opener with batik designs to the more than P100,000 10-foot antique door.

If items clients want are already in the market in Indonesia, they can be delivered within two weeks to a month. Those that

BEAUTIFUL/ F4

What's your PUMA?

Behind every PUMA shoe is a story.



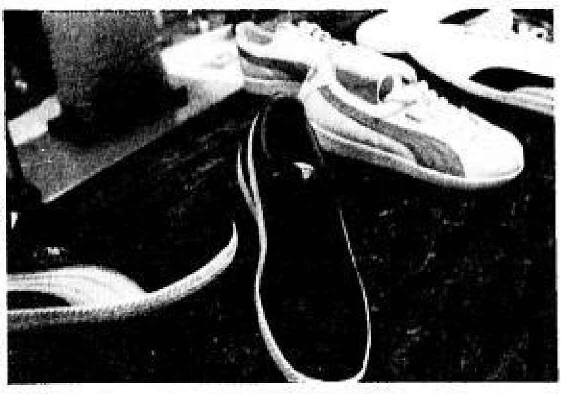
The one and only Clyde. An iconic shoe that represents a lifestyle.

Shoes used to be just for show. Then came the knack for technology. But nothing beats true blue, honest-to-goodness heritage that you can proudly brag to your friends about. PUMA, the global athletic brand that successfully fuses influences from sport, lifestyle and fashion is nothing short of a rich heritage that sneaker freaks in this century are clamoring for. Here's a short guide to PUMA's well-loved shoes and their juicy pasts.

The Suede

PUMA's perennial classic, "The Suede," was released in time for the 1968 Summer Olympics hosted by Mexico City and was worn by 200m gold medalist Tommie Smith. A prominent equal rights activist, he gained much recognition by bowing his head and raising his fist in a "Black Power" salute as he stood on the podium, to protest racism in the United States.

Off the training field, The Suede was the first shoe of "B-Boyism" made famous by the Hip-hop crews, such as New York City Breakers and Rocksteady Crew in the early jams of hiphop in NYC.



Kick-ass ala Pele with these Brasils.

Brasil

In southern Brazil in the late 40s, a boy named Edson Arantes do Nascimento also known as Pelé used to shine shoes and play football shoeless. For the love of the game, he stuck with it and eventually became the greatest football player of all time. Known for his unstoppable dribbling, visionary passing, powerful shot and pace but above all, he was a superb goal scorer.

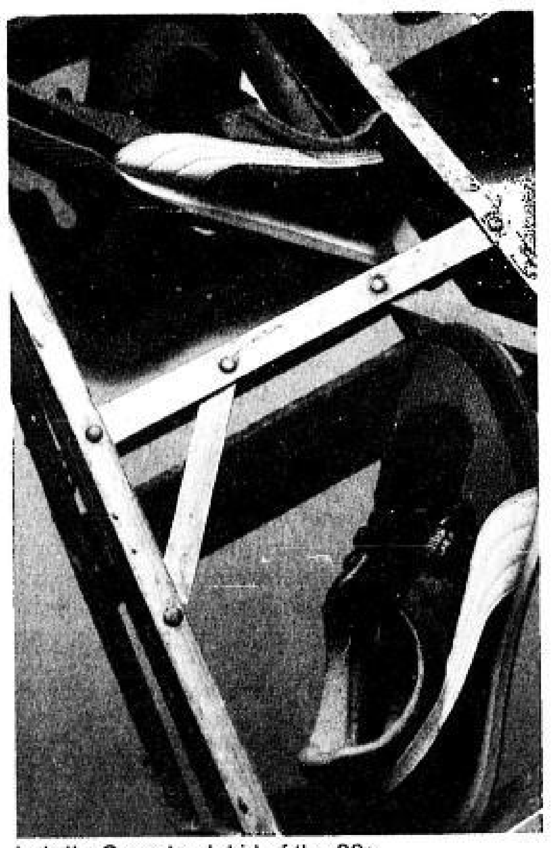
To pay homage to this international football star, the PUMA Brasil was created in 1972. This signature shoe was Pelé's footwear of choice while relaxing off the field. This year, PUMA Brasil celebrates 25 years of its cool legacy and kick-ass prowess. A shoe fit for a true legend.

You ain't fly without a pair of Suedes.

The Clyde

It was in 1973 when New York Knicks basketball player Walt "Clyde" Frazier asked PUMA for a wider version of their basketball shoe. This prompted PUMA in 1973 to tweak one of its first sneakers, The Suede, and renamed it in his honor. Clyde, the player and the shoe soon-after became a legend. Nicknamed after infamous folk-hero outlaw Clyde Borrows as depicted in the movie Bonnie & Clyde, he was known for his innate ability to steal the ball with a mix of bravado, coolness and off court savvy style. His best performance was at the 7th game of the'70 NBA Finals against the Lakers where the Knicks won 113-99, the franchise's first NBA Championship. Today the Clyde has re-issues in at least 100 colorways and designs worldwide.

Who would've thought the Roma that was a crosstrainer once could look so good?



Lab II - Comeback kid of the 80s.

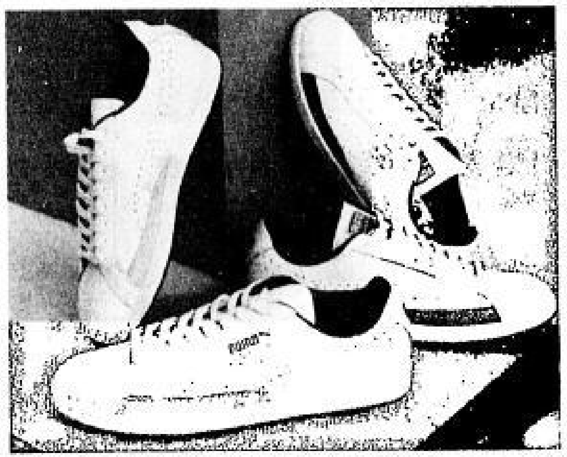
Lab II

In 1981, as PUMA clearly became increasingly popular in sports, the PUMA Lab II was introduced as a performance running shoe that's lightweight, made of mesh with a unique midsole presentation. Favored by marathon runners and track and field athletes, the Lab II combined both the performance aspect and a wild funky style of what a running shoe ought to be.

Today, the Lab II is a casual sneaker inspired by its sports past with more and more funky colors to choose from.

Roma

The Roma you see now was a crosstraining shoe back in the 60s. True to its sports past, it remains very comfortable yet very rigid for traction. Perhaps one of the most stylish PUMA shoes around, Romas are made of contrasting materials from denim to snakeskin.

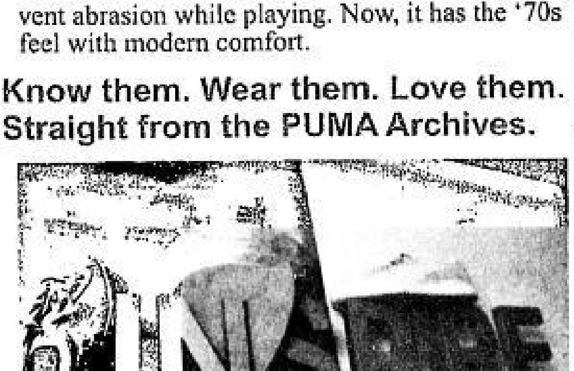


Match - still smashing after all these years.

PUMA Match

From the PUMA archive in 1974, the Match, aptly called, was a performance tennis shoe that was worn by European tennis superstars who graced the US, French and Australian Opens. Designed with suede patches on the side to prevent abrasion while playing. Now, it has the '70s feel with modern comfort.

Know them. Wear them. Love them. Straight from the PUMA Archives.



Enough said.

PUMA Stores are at Bonifacio High Street, 2nd Level Glorietta 4, 2nd Level Trinoma, Upper Ground Level Festival Supermall, Ground Floor Limketkai Mall, 2nd Level Gaisano Mall of Davao and 2nd Level Robinsons Bacolod. Also available in leading department stores and shoe outlets nationwide.

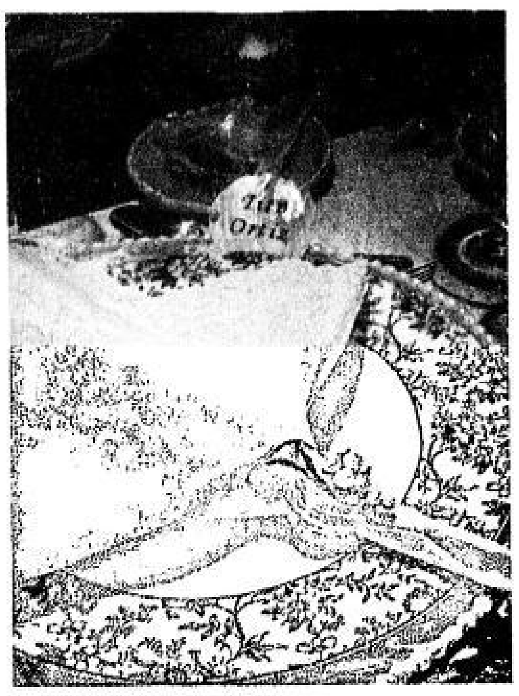
For more info contact 635-PUMA.

Shot on location at LRI Design Plaza
210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II Makati
895-1772

MOTHER-OF-PEARL is used as butter plate, butter knife and dessert plate. It complements the Wedgwood plates.

Classic, cutting-edge and for a cause

HUGE *sampaguita* arrangements in different design clusters are also used as centerpieces at dinner tables.



FOR RENOWNED ANTIQUES AND art collector Dr. Eleuterio "Teyet" Pascual, styling the sprawling Prieto home for a private auction/dinner was like revisiting an old friend.

In the '60s, when the house was built by foremost architect and now National Artist Leandro Locsin, Pascual helped the house's owner, Mauro Prieto, decorate it. The late Prieto was Teyet's good friend.

One summer in the '60s when Teyet was working on his doctorate in chemistry in Switzerland, the two friends traveled around Europe. In Madrid, Teyet enticed Mauro to seek out the famous Spanish portraitist Claudio Bravo who had just been to Manila and had done the portraits of Manila's society doyennes, from Imelda Cojuangco to Elvira Manahan.

Teyet wanted Mauro to have a sitting with Bravo. He did. The result was a portrait of the youthful-looking Mauro Prieto.

Today, for this exclusive dinner, many years after Prieto's death, Teyet thought of retrieving that portrait from storage and hanging it in a prominent place in the lanai where the dinner tables were. From that wall, Mauro Prieto cast his patrician gaze on an assemblage that was easily two generations removed from his.

Now the home of Philip and Sandy Romualdez, the setting was the Old World welcoming the cool New World of young business leaders, entrepreneurs and social advocates who had gathered for the private auction to benefit the newly formed Gifts and Graces Fair Trade Foundation Inc.

Old World meets cool New World—that was Teyet's style statement for this memorable September dinner, whether he called it that or not. It was a blend of the classic and the cutting-edge. Hosted by INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez who is the foundation president, the dinner was attended by about 70 select guests.

Teyet established the mood as early as when the guests drove in. The driveway was lined with candles that cast a bluish glow and were nestled atop white-and-blue miniature porcelain stands. Blue, as in INQUIRER blue, would be the color motif that night. The theme of blue-lit candles perched on porcelain blue-and-whites was repeated in the indoor pond and in the pool outside.

Greeting the guests at the foyer was the sight of a huge white-and-blue vase containing an exquisite *sampaguita* arrangement.

The scent of *sampaguita* would be carried over to the dinner tables, where *sampaguita* was arranged in various forms.

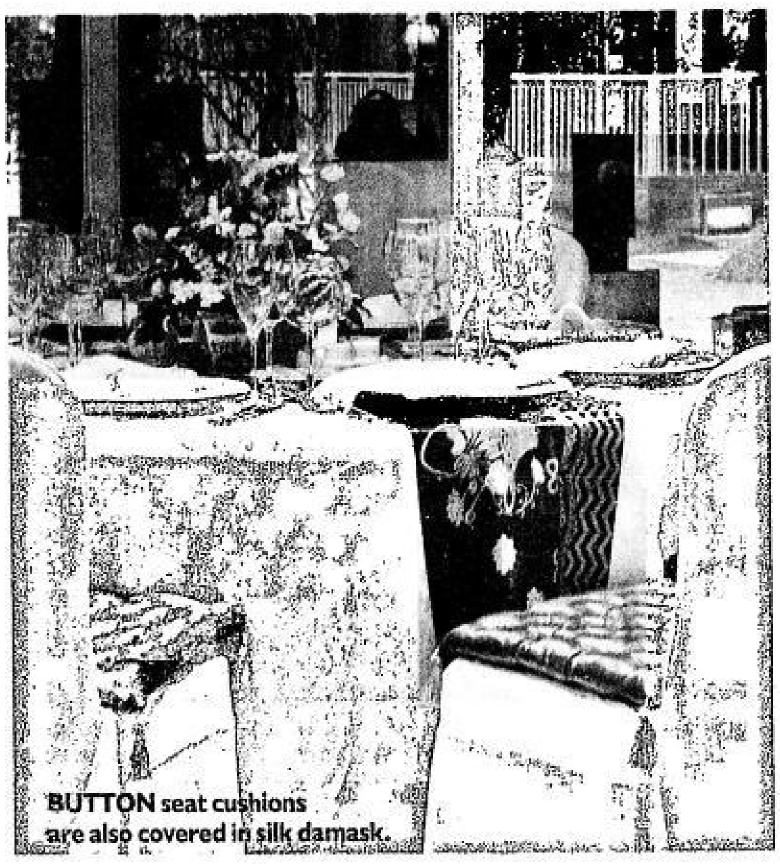
From the foyer guests were escorted to the dining room where the crafts made by the communities supported by Gifts and Graces were laid out on the table.

Teyet's giant glass candelabras stood out amid the dark wood-paneled dining room.

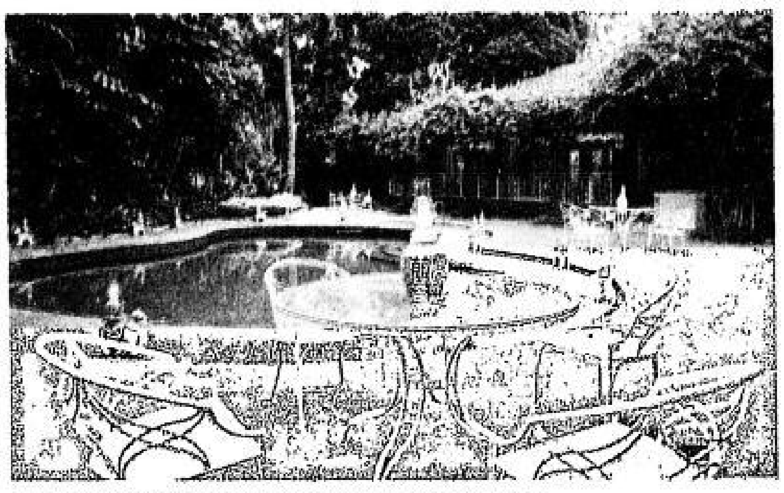
Hanging on the walls around the room were the artworks up for auction—an ingenious idea of Philip, who spent long nights with Sandy and Teyet planning for the auction. Among these artworks were the most prized floral painting of former President Cory Aquino, which would fetch a high six-figure bid that night, a Federico Alcuaz, a Sanso, a Budji Layug, a Tes Pasola paper installation.

The dinner tables were covered with white silk damask with blue design. The crystal service plates were lined with freshwater pearls. Teyet loved to use pearls that night, from the table centerpieces that carried tiny pearls shaped into corn husks, to the mother-of-pearl shells bearing the appetizer. Mother-of-pearl was also used ingeniously as name cards on the table. Mandarin Oriental prepared the meal.

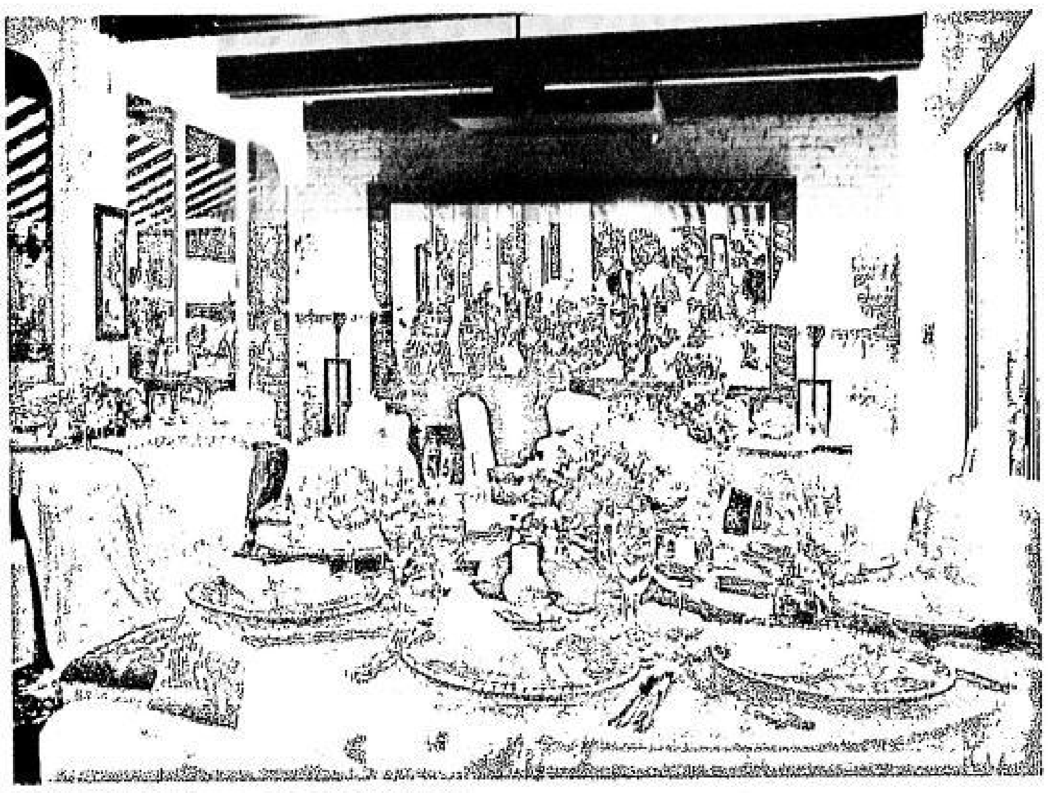
The chairs had blue silk damask button cushions. The style was understated elegance, yet with the trademark Teyet Pascual twist.



BUTTON seat cushions are also covered in silk damask.



BLUE-AND-WHITE vases serve as candleholders.



TABLECLOTHS are made of silk damask.

Pick-and-pay herb and vegetable store

CUSTOMERS of the herb garden can harvest the herbs and vegetables they want, assuring them that the produce is fresh.

EDSA GARDEN HOUSE HAS launched the pick-and-pay Herbs & Vegetables Garden at the Manila Seedling Bank Environmental Center, Edsa corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

The first of its kind in the Philippines, it features high-technology greenhouse and movable tables displaying different kinds of herbs.

Customers of the herb garden can do their own harvesting of the herbs and vegetables they want, assuring them that the produce is fresh.

Top sellers so far are gotukola (memory enhancer), stevia (natural sweetener for diabetes) and chocolate mint (for tea) and rosemary (for fish, chicken and meat).

Adela T. Ang is owner and general manager of the herb garden.

During the opening, Michael Caballes, technical services manager of Allied Botanical Corp. that provided vegetable seeds grown in the greenhouses, conducted a seminar.

Free livelihood seminars on cooking, composting, growing of fruit trees in containers, flower arrangements, candle-making, etc. will be held Friday-Sunday at 2 p.m. Call 9270510 and 9293189.

Landscaping and flower arrangement courses

LEARN HOW TO LANDscape your garden or make dishgardens which you can give to relatives and friends.

On Dec. 1-2, Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla will offer a 2-day course on Practical Guide in Home Landscaping, including principles of design, design faults, sourcing of materials, techniques of plant propagation, identification of plants and other materials, and care and maintenance. Hands-on will be a tray landscape, 2 percent feet long and 2 feet wide.

On Dec. 5-9, the course will be Flower Arrangement for all occasions, including Ikebana, Western styles, free styles, flower shop operation, garland-making, avant-garde arrangements for buffet or party centerpieces, corsages, bouquets and other wedding ensembles. All materials will be provided for the hands-on at least two projects or styles every day.

All seminar-workshops will be held 1-6 p.m. at Metts Plant Arts shop, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, with hands-on materials for the projects they can bring home and with snacks, handouts and certificate. Advance registration is required at least three days before the seminar starts. For other details, call 9394593 or 0917-8321352; e-mail mettsplants@yahoo.com.ph.

SM HYPERMARKET'S FAMILY OF MILLIONAIRES

After six years and thirty- eight winners of one million pesos each, SM Hypermarket's **Shop n Win** promotion continues to create shopping excitement with its customers. And residents of Taytay and neighboring Rizal towns now have the chance to join with the opening of SM Hypermarket in SM City Taytay.

Shopping and winning is so easy in this promotion, which is exclusive to SM Advantage and Prestige Cardholders! Every P500.00 single receipt purchase of any item with the **Buy Me** flag entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to win One Million Pesos in its monthly draw.

What does it take to win a million pesos? We interviewed recent winners **Marilen Buenaventura, Luzviminda Panganiban, Ma. Teresita Bonifacio, Manolito Alvarez,** and **Evangeline Villanueva**. Here, they share with us the excitement of winning, what they plan to do with their prizes, and why they love shopping at SM Hypermarket.

Marilen Buenaventura of Sta. Maria, Bulacan says that winning was like a birthday gift for her, as her name was drawn the day after her birthday at SM City Marilao.

This young mom says that she usually shops at the 'grocery section buying milk and diapers for my two year old baby. That's where I got my single lucky stub." She adds, "My husband and I also enjoy checking the latest gadgets and electronic items at the appliance section. Marilen says that she plan to put up her own business and save for her baby's education with her winnings.

Luzviminda Panganiban says that winning the **Shop n Win** raffle has helped her realize a long time dream. "I was hoping to buy the vacant lot beside our place for the longest time," she recalls. "It's hard to believe I already have the title to that lot which I bought with my prize money." She also donated a portion of her winnings to the Divine Mercy Church as a way of showing her gratitude to God.

Ever since the Shop n' Win started, Luzviminda Panganiban never failed to fill out her stubs after shopping at SM Hypermarket.

March's Millionaire Marilen Buenaventura shows her SM Advantage card to the cashier to claim her Shop n' Win stub at the Customer Service.

"Winning has been this easy, Just purchase Buy me items to qualify to the promotion" says Ma. Teresita Bonifacio.

Luzviminda and her family are SM Hypermarket regulars, and she enjoys shopping for her groceries and household supplies with her grandchildren. In fact, during the day she won, her daughter was watching the Hypermarket in Marilao watching the **Shop n Win** draw, and was thrilled when her name was announced twice by the host.

Teresita Bonifacio of Quezon City was buying grocery items during Mother's Day to stock up for her weekly supply at home when she dropped her winning entries in SM Hypermarket's **Shop n Win** promotion. The rest, as they say is history.

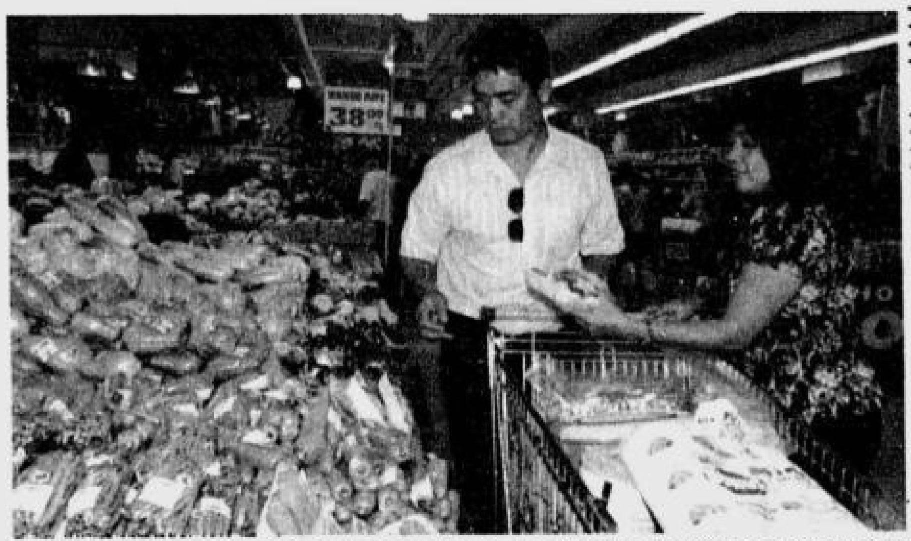
"Shopping at SM Hypermarket is really a worthwhile experience, " she says. "Aside from the many conveniences it offers, an exciting promotion like this makes us customers feel we are valued."

Teresita and her family are planning a US tour with her prize money sometime next year. She also treats friends and family members who call her up after seeing her picture in the newspaper.

Manolito Alvarez, a businessman who owns Sibul Transport Service, says it was his daughter Eunice who filled up his lucky stub. He and his wife Mercedes are regulars at SM Hypermarket in Molino, which he says "has become a second home to us, and a place where my family can do things together."

With his prize money, Manolito donated a portion to his Church ministry, made a down payment for his new house and car, and bought a ticket for his US tour. His advise for winning? "Simply shop at SM Hypermarket. Everything there is great -the store layout, the fresh food, and of course, the promotions."

Evangeline Villanueva, who's a Civil Engineer, says that winning One Million Pesos in SM Hypermarket's **Shop n Win** monthly raffle draw was " a blessing from God." More so, that she was taking her of her sick kid when she received the fateful call that she had won the promotion.


Manolito Alvarez and wife Mercedes, like to meet at the Vegetable section after combing each and every aisle of the Hypermarket.

SM Hypermarket's Family of Millionaires. Marilen Buenaventura, Luzviminda Panganiban, Ma. Teresita Bonifacio and Evangeline Villanueva.

A resident of the Holy Family Village in Taguig City, Evangeline is at the Hypermarket three or four times a week to shop for groceries and other family needs. "I like to shop there because of the store layout which makes it easy for me to find the things I need," she says. "And of course, the prices are reasonable.

With her winnings, Evangeline has already paid for a premium educational plan for her kids, and she plans to use the rest to expand her construction business.

Like Marilen, Luzviminda, Teresita, Manolito, and Evangeline, SM Hypermarket shoppers have a chance to win One Million Pesos in its monthly **Shop n Win** raffle draw, which is ongoing until December 2007.

Winner Evangeline Villanueva says working moms like me don't have much time to prepare and cook for my family. Fortunately, SM Hypermarket has ready to cook dishes that saves my day.

SM HYPERMARKET

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ALL in one GO!

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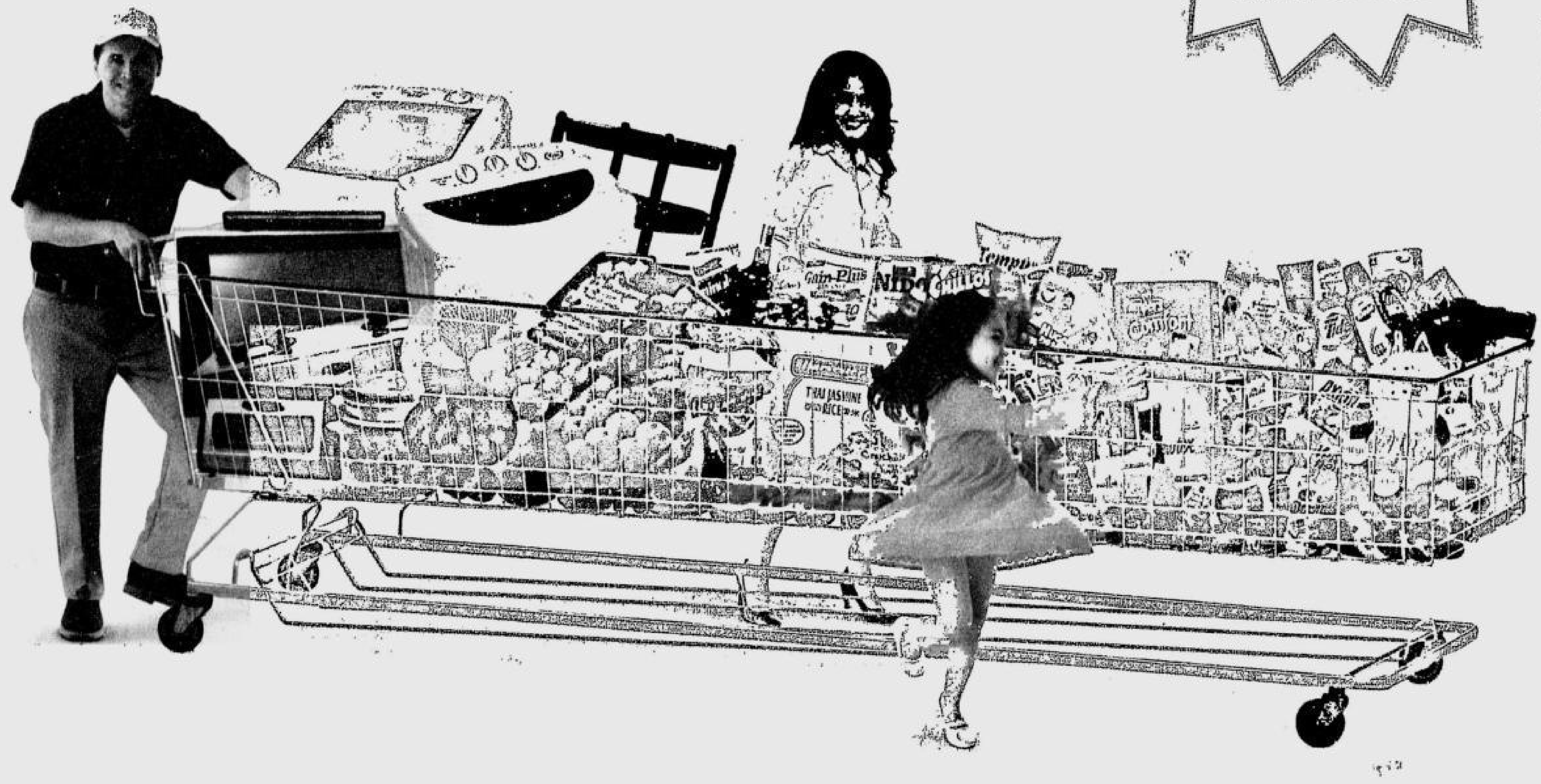
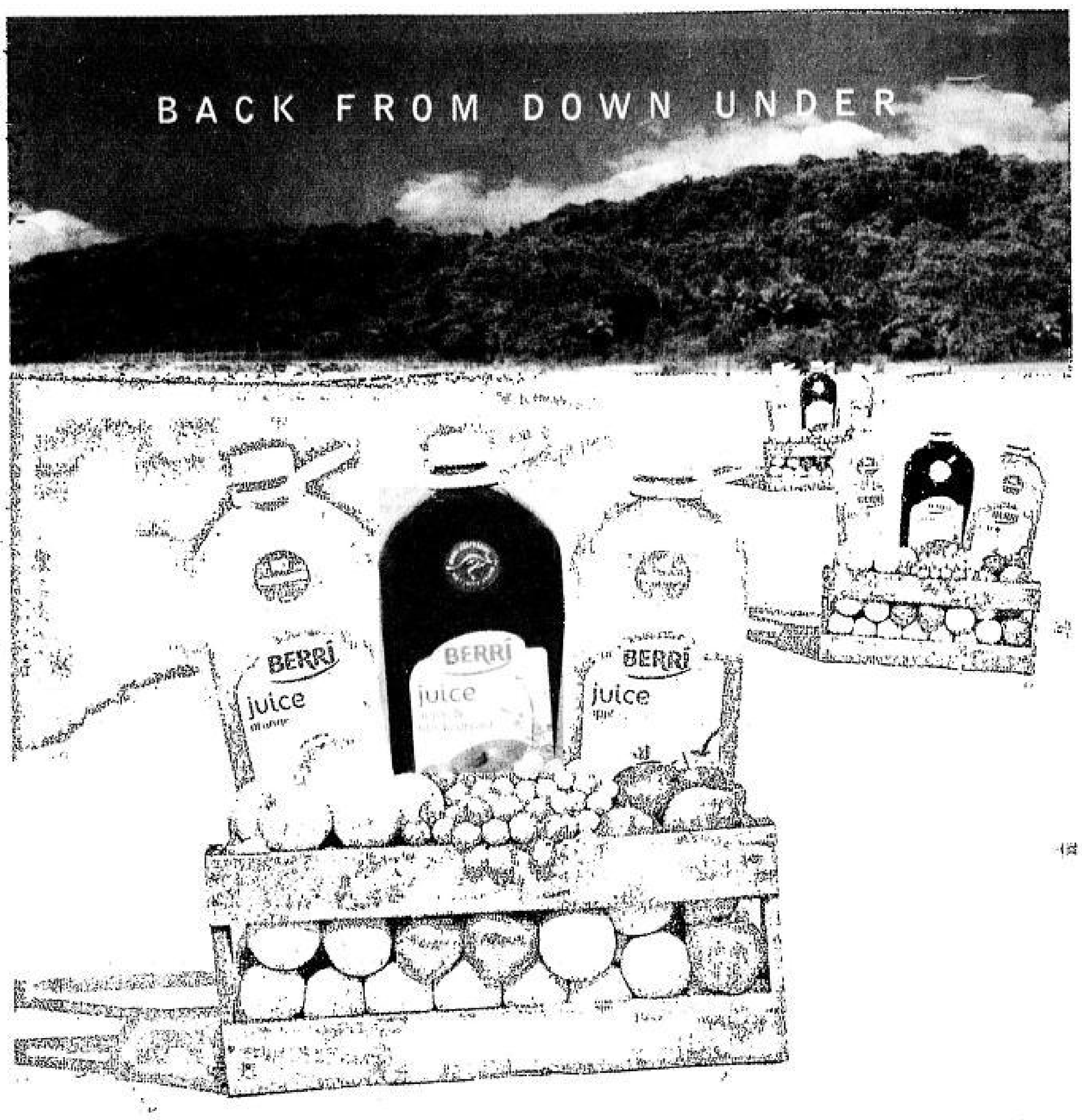


Come to SM Hypermarket and delight in one-stop shopping convenience.

SM Sucat • SM Bicutan • SM Marilao • SM Supercenter Valenzuela • SM Supercenter Molino • SM Clark • SM Mall of Asia • The Block - SM North Edsa • SM Supercenter Pasig



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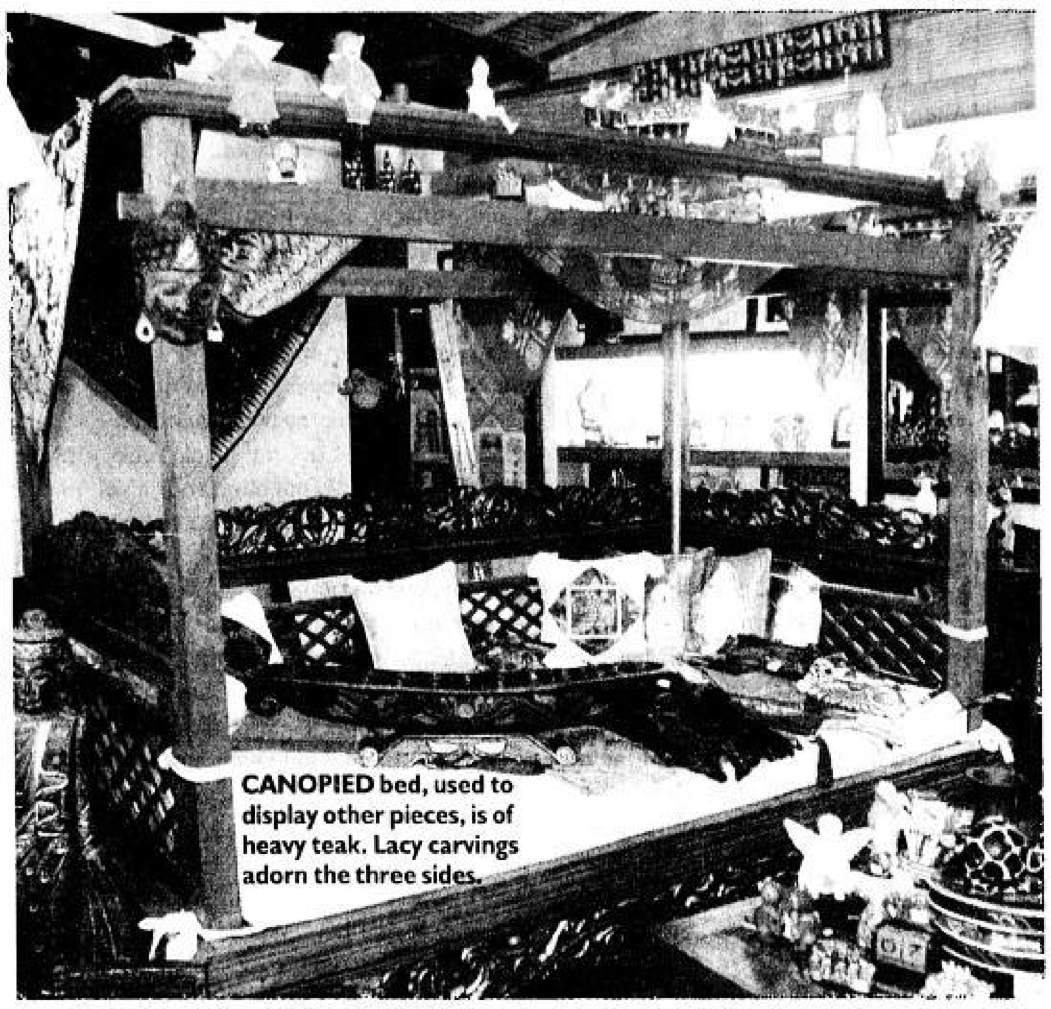
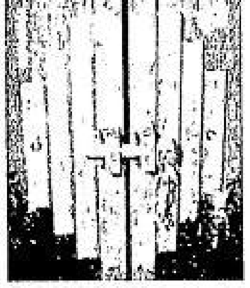
Frankly, it's the meat.

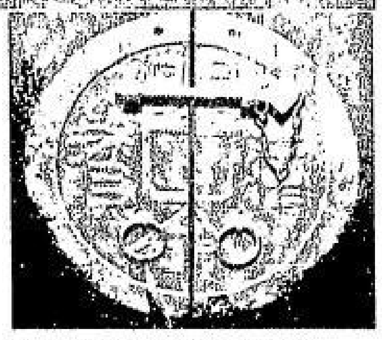


CANOPIED bed, used to display other pieces, is of heavy teak. Lacy carvings adorn the three sides.

'Beautiful home' of woodcraft and batik



CD cabinet doors feature this antique metal lock.



CHINESE-LOOKING metal fastener for closing the doors of a teak armoire

From page F1

have yet to be made may take at least two months.

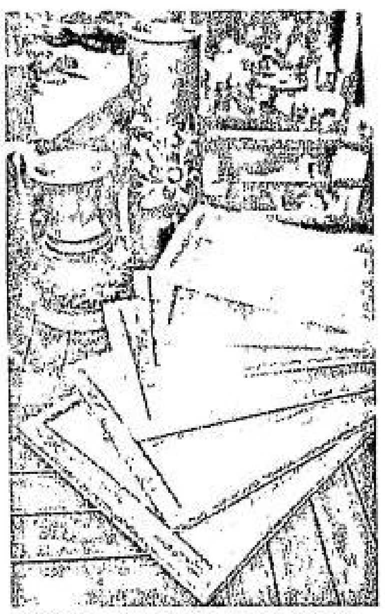
The quoted price, Naval said, would already cover shipment, import duties and other incidental expenses.

Though the pieces available at Pondok Indah are primarily made of teak and carry the distinctive Indonesian batik designs, other items suggest that, like other countries, the Philippines' neighbor has also diversified its crafts.

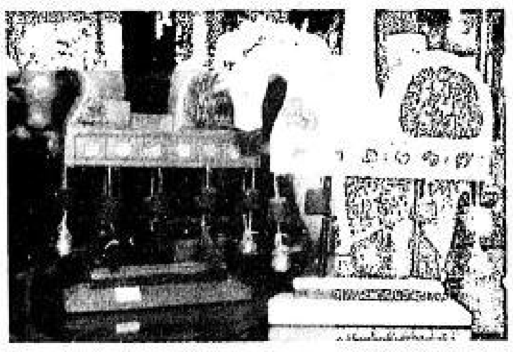
Cooking timers in plastic feature unusual designs. The Buddha, and even the *wayang*, a traditional Indonesian image, are rendered in different versions and materials.

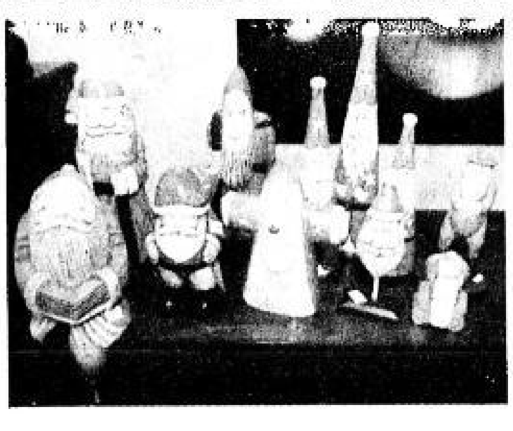
Of course, woodcraft remains the anchor of the store. Aside from the antique door that occupies the front display window, other distinctive teak pieces are a cabinet (P35,000) that can hold about 550 compact discs, an armoire, and floor lamps.

Pondok Indah is on the second floor, Serendra, Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Metro Manila; 9018873 and 0920-9470830, fax 7724644 and e-mail pondokindah.serendra@gmail.com



ODDS and ends include this six-piece set of heavy teak trays in different sizes.





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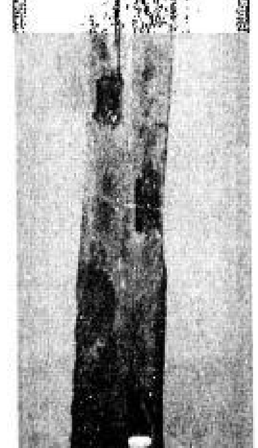

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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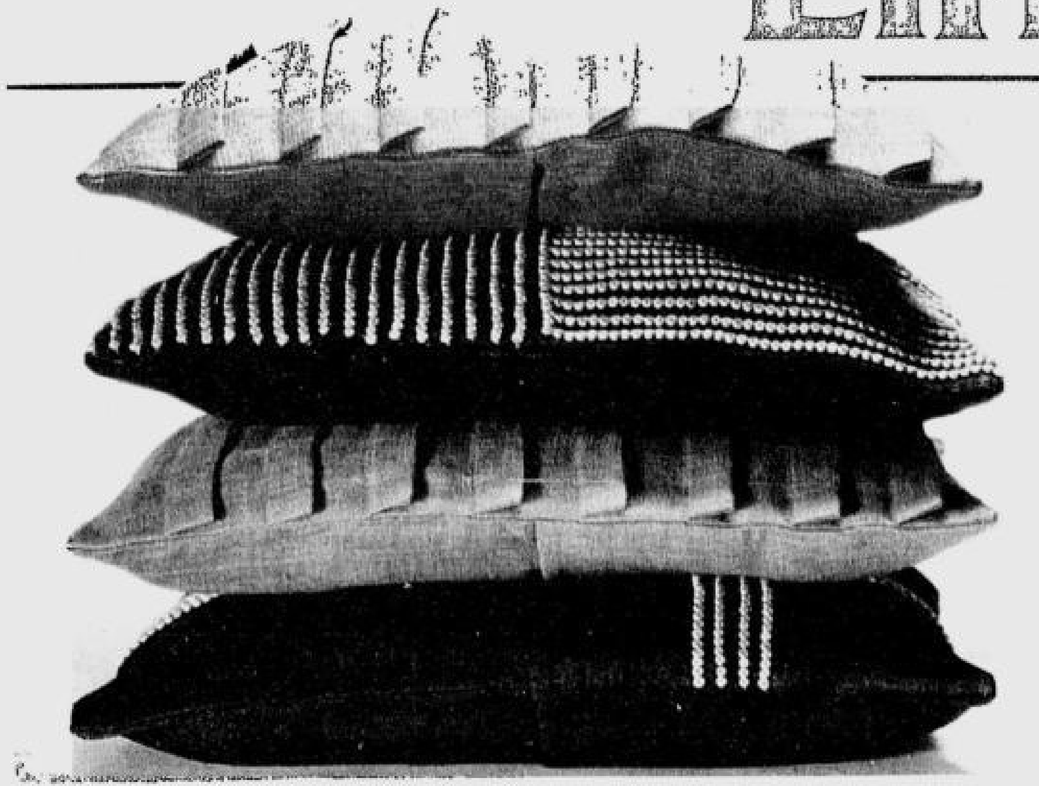
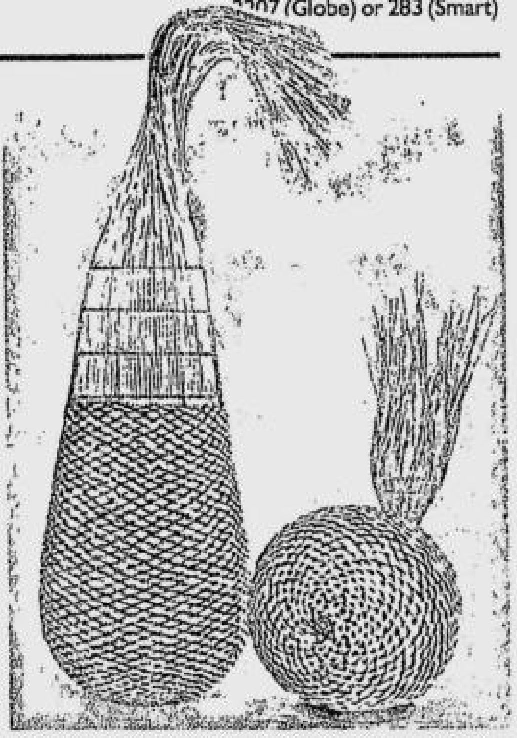


PLEATED cushion covers of T'nalak cloth from Tadeco Livelihood and Training Centers

CRAFT Mill, Inc.'s handwoven mats in natural fibers



ABACA fiber lamps from First Binhi Crafts Corporation

Traditional arts and crafts to be showcased in exposition

By Linda B. Bolido

IT MAY BE THE ULTIMATE, most authentic international pre-Christmas bazaar.

At least 20 countries are expected to bring and showcase the best of their arts and crafts, particularly traditional pieces.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Handicraft and Development Association is staging the first Ahpada International Arts and Crafts Expo Nov. 22-25 at the new SMX Convention and Exhibition Center in the Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City. The expo will be the first event to be held at SMX.

Former Tourism Secretary Mina T. Gabor, who is the association's president for the next two years, said all the foreign participants would be selling the items they would bring in.

Selling area

Filipino participants said, while the pieces on exhibit would not be for sale—at least not on the first day—there would be a selling area. Those interested in what would be on show could reserve items and collect them at the end of the expo.

Participating in the event are all the Asean member countries—Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Others that have signified their participation are Canada, United States, China, India, Korea, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Japan and Tunisia.

> More than 20 countries are expected to participate in the Ahpada event

Not a glorified bazaar

But Gabor stressed that the expo that would mark the 25th anniversary of AHPADA would be more than just a glorified international bazaar. Established in Bangkok, Thailand, Ahpada aims "to preserve and improve the status of craftspeople within and outside the Asia/Pacific region."

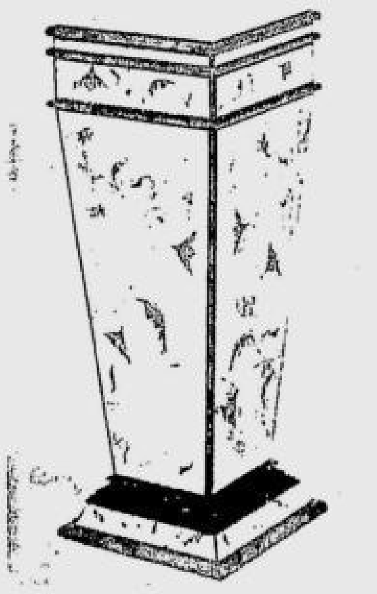
The association promotes the sharing of ideas, know-how, experiences, resources and expertise to develop craftspeople and promote quality craftsmanship. It supports training initiatives, including those for youth and the physically challenged, and the establishment of crafts businesses related to cultural tourism.

As part of its efforts to motivate craftspeople and artisans, Gabor said Ahpada and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) set up a system for awarding the seal of excellence for outstanding work.

Theme of the expo is "Creativity & Innovation: A Renaissance." Gabor said it would include very traditional works, as well as more modern pieces to show how arts and crafts have evolved to respond to a changing market. The motif of the exhibition, she said, would be tropical modern.

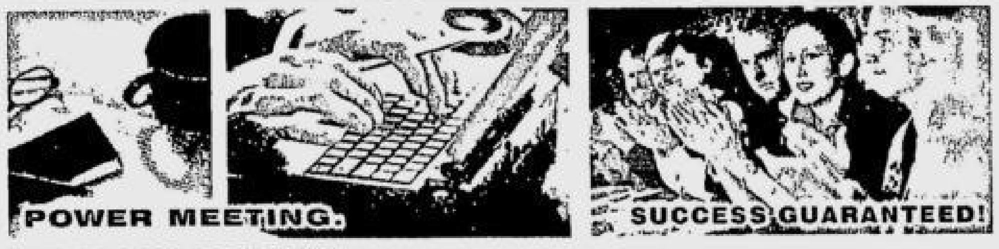
Aside from the exhibition, the four-day event would also feature business forums, craft-making demonstrations and cultural events. The business forums would discuss business opportunities, marketing strategies and designs, among others, Gabor said.

She added that environmental sustainability, the protection and conservation of natural resources, was a major focus of AHPADA's efforts.



VIA Antica Export and Trading Company's capiz floor lamp

TRADITIONAL/ G2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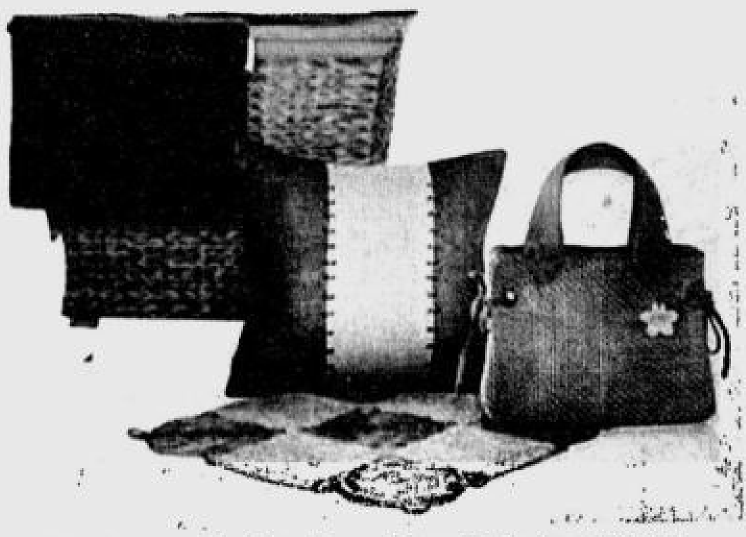
Traditional arts and crafts to be showcased . . .



ASIDE from bags and baskets, Buena Mano Crafts, Inc. will bring velvet holiday décor and trims.

From page G1

The former tourism secretary said, "Arts and crafts are among the most important aspects for cultural development." She underscored the importance of tourism as part of tourism programs, saying travelers were no longer interested simply in souvenir items but looked for pieces they could own and that would be able to "tell" stories about their trips.

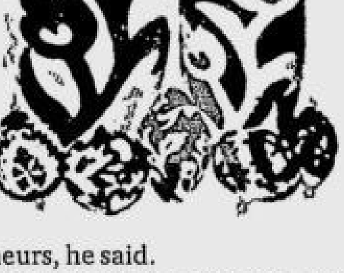
Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said the development of arts and crafts was part of the goal to make tourism not only a major dollar-earning industry but also a prime contributor to economic progress and the improvement of the lives of Filipinos by promoting grassroots artisans and craftsmen.

He said the goal was to make arts and crafts products a means for tourists not only to remember their visit but also to learn a little more about the culture and history of the country and its people.

Durano revealed that the Department of Tourism had started supporting micro-enterprises producing souvenirs to ensure their quality, teaching artisans and craftsmen not only new technology but also management skills.

Like Gabor, he said environmental protection was a major component of their collaborative efforts with artisans and craftsmen. "We ask our contractors to stop using wood and to use substitutes that are (abundant and easily renewable)," the secretary said.

He said the department made sure the enterprises were kept busy the whole year round, not just during peak tourist seasons, by buying their products. The department directly sourced its giveaways for various occasions from microentrepreneurs, he said.



BLACK and white vases also from Buena Mano

The department, he said, was even supporting community craft-making among T'bolis in Lake Sebu in Mindanao to turn the activity into a tourist attraction, an initiative that might be duplicated among other indigenous groups.

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Events venue in a mall

THE MANDARIN ORIENTAL SUITES, function and business rooms, operated by the world-renowned hotel chain, has opened at the fourth floor of Gateway Mall.

The first events venue in a mall at the heart of the metro, the Mandarin Suites (9124050, 0928-5064874, e-mail jabubakar@aranetagroup.com, www.gatewaymall.com.ph) can also serve as venue for banquets, private parties, workshops, special events such as weddings, debuts and other celebrations.

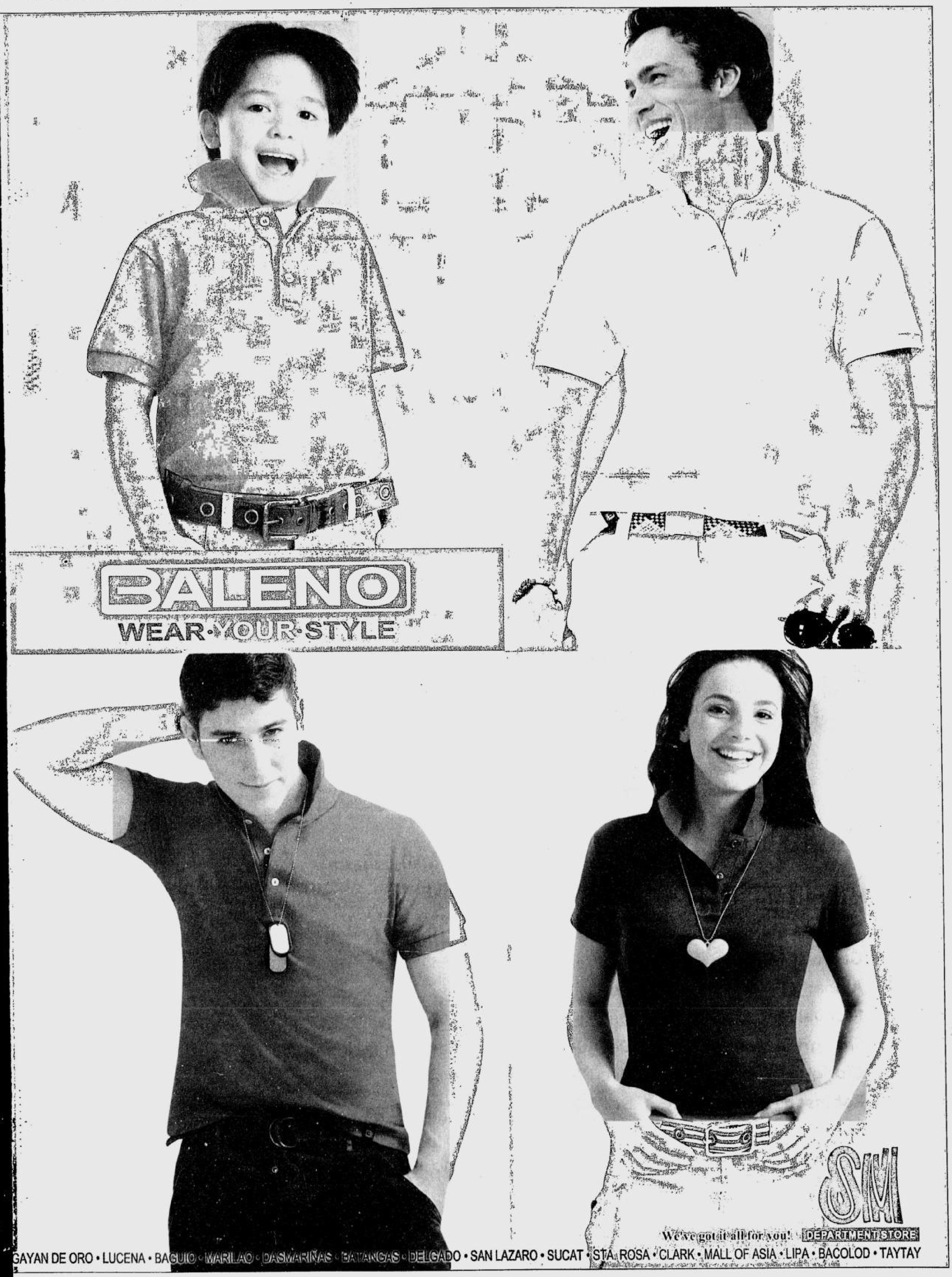
Consisting of two luxuriously appointed halls, Sapphire and Topaz, Mandarin Suites offers five-star hotel services and can accommodate as many as 300 in one event. Other facilities include a pre-function reception area, bar, a pre-event organizer's venue and a complete business center.

Owned by Araneta Center Inc. and operated by Mandarin Oriental Hotel, the suite of rooms is the second collaboration between the two, after the Mandarin Oriental Café & Deli on the upper ground level that opened in 2005.

The café and deli features Oasis, a floating garden of exotic flora.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL
SUITES

MANDARIN Suites offers five-star hotel services and can accommodate as many as 300 in one event.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Glorietta	Dec 17-23
Robinsons Ermita	Dec 17-23
SM North Edsa	Dec 20-26
SM Mall of Asia	Dec 20-26

LUZON

Pacific Mall Legaspi	Dec 7-15
CSI Dagupan	Dec 8-14

VISAYAS

Ayala Center Cebu	Nov 26-Dec 2
SM Iloilo	Nov 30-Dec 6
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SM Bacolod	Dec 10-16
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2005 Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Gionna Cabrera with 2007's Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Anna Theresa Licaros, 1st runnerup Liezel Verses, 2nd runnerup Abigail Cruz, and Bb. Pilipinas-International Nadia Shami

Christmas giving is the real thing

Set to journey to four key cities, eight towns and close to 300 barangays, the Coke Caravan will spread Christmas cheer with fun games, exciting prizes and concerts for Filipino families

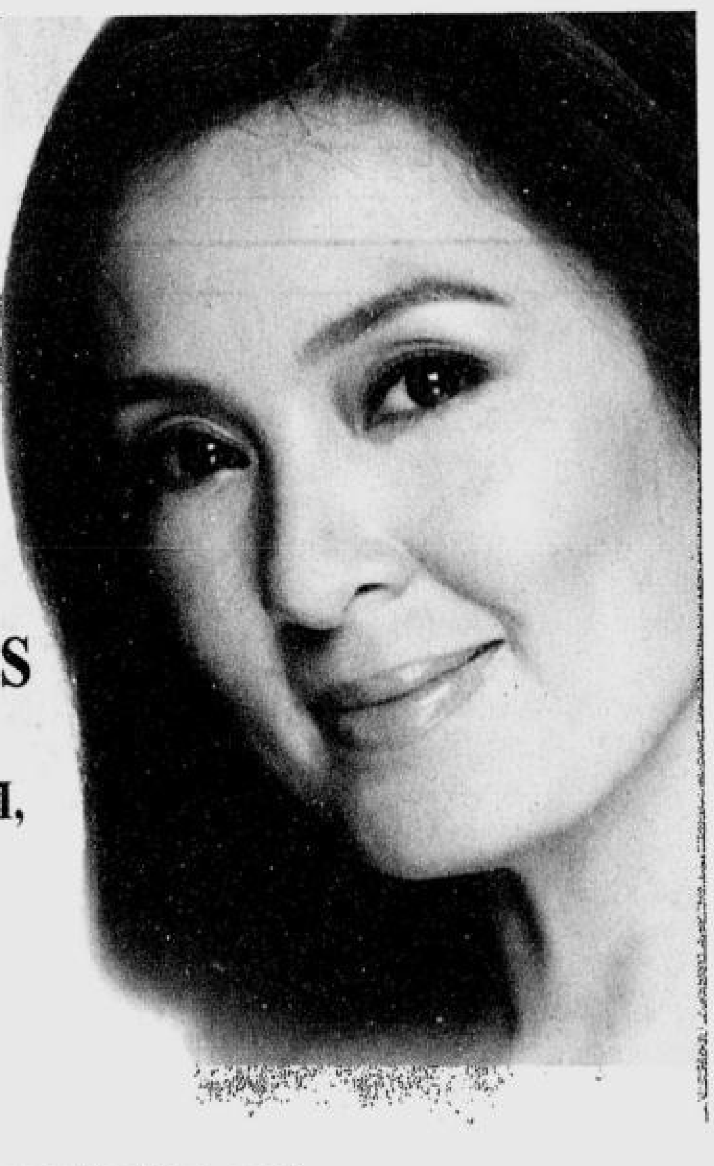
TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

"IT'S THE REAL THING!" THAT was my generation's Coca-Cola slogan. My childhood memories of that jingle are vivid and I miss that classic, curvy Coke bottle. I can still remember its Christmas campaign showing a line of carolers lighting candles in the "Bonding sa Buhay Coke, Buksan Mo" campaign. For the holidays, the campaign features the enchanting return of the Coca-cola Christmas Caravan as it rolls into Philippine soil.

Set to journey to four key cities, eight towns and close to 300 barangays, the Coke Caravan will spread Christmas cheer with fun games, exciting prizes and concerts for Filipino families.

The roving Christmas festival starts in Baguio City on Dec. 1

CHRISTMAS/ H3



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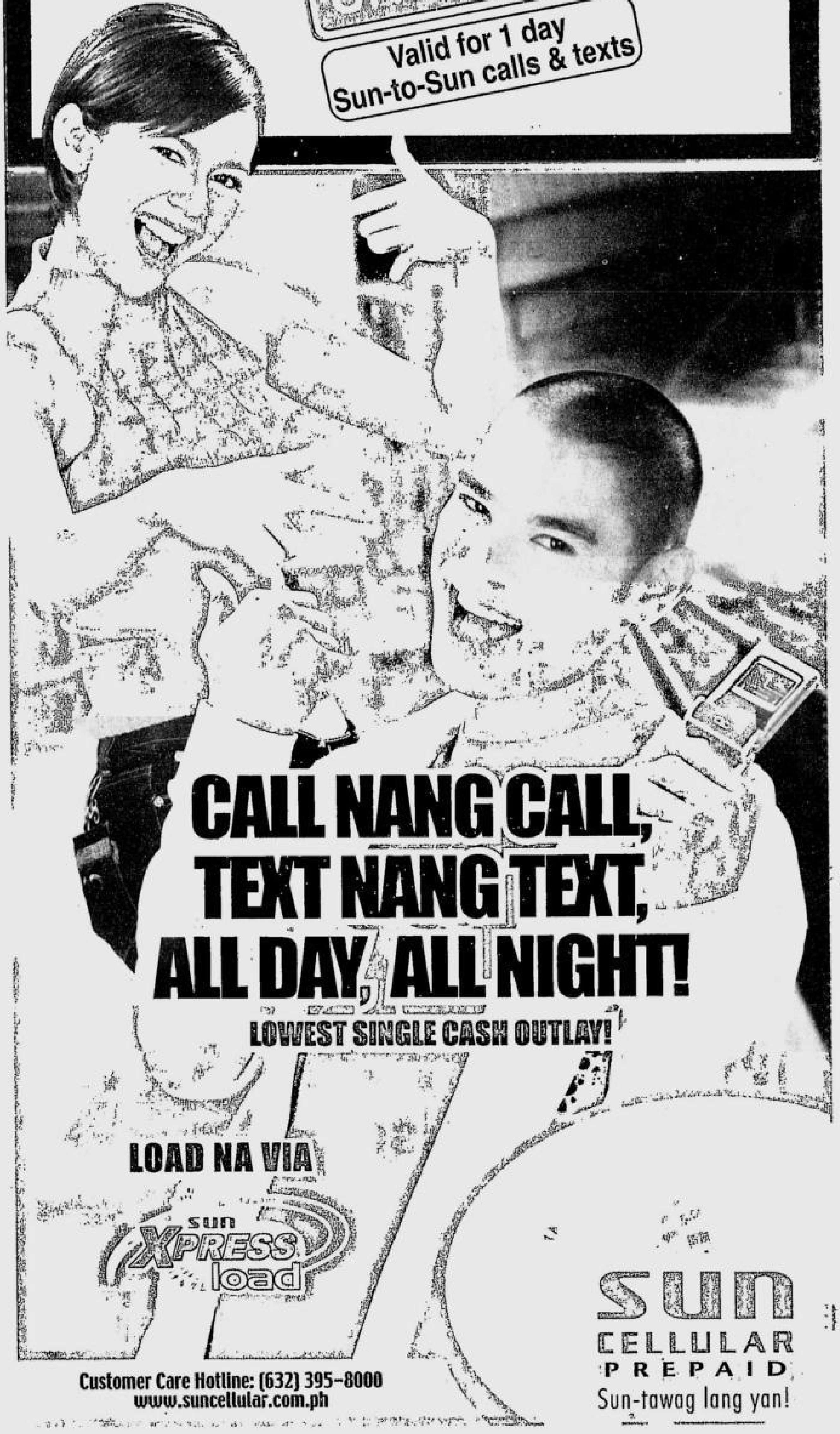

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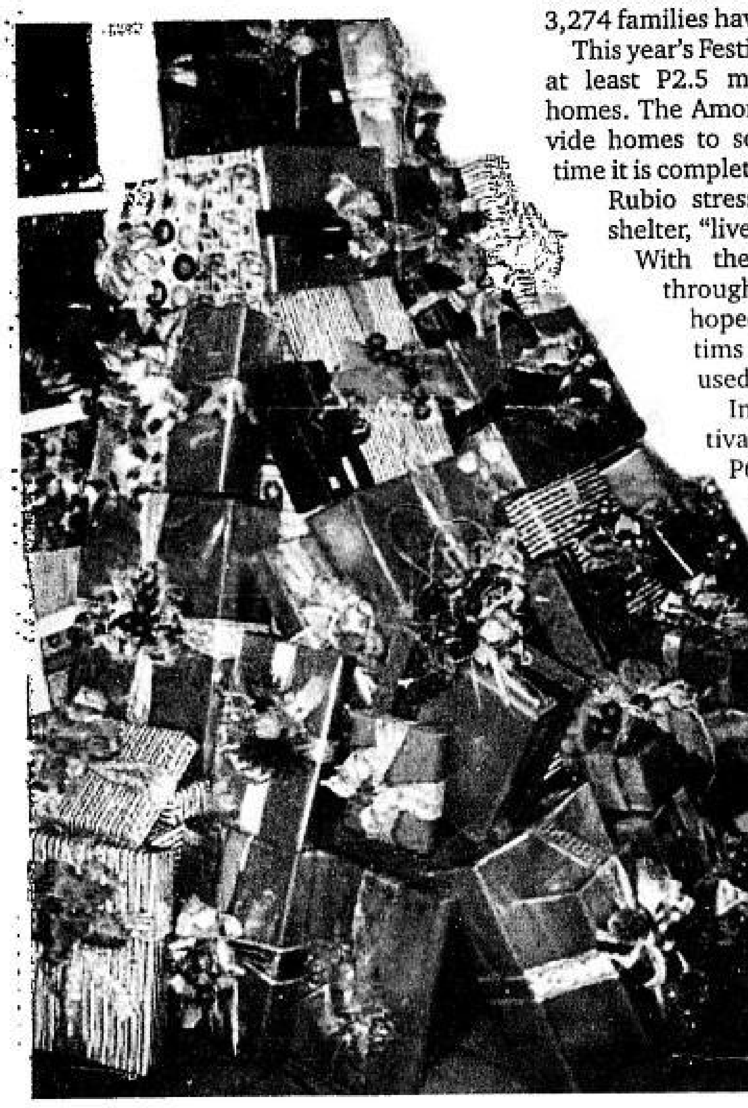
An auction of surprises

THE 12TH EDITION OF THE annual Festival of Trees promises to be suspenseful.

For this year's charity auction and dinner that will benefit the Amore Community Development Program, a disaster rehabilitation program in Albay that was devastated by typhoon Reming in December last year, items up for bids will be concealed in mystery boxes.

Bidders will not know until they have acquired possession of a box what they are paying for exactly. Of course, as is the tradition the event organized by the Makati Garden Club (MGC), up for grabs are Christmas trees and decor done by MGC members, and paintings and other art pieces, and other rarities from various donors.



BIDDERS will only see boxes.

To be held Nov. 29, 6 p.m., at the Manila Polo Club in Makati, this year's event is jointly headed by Manuel V. Pangilinan, chair of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone company and president of the Philippine Business for Social Progress, and Maria Luisa Perez Rubio, MGC president and PBSP trustee.

Festival theme is "Celebrating the Spirit of Giving at Christmas."

This year's beneficiary, the Amore program, is an initiative of the PLDT-Smart Foundation. Typhoon Reming caused damage amounting to P5 billion and displaced hundreds of families.

Now, almost a year after the typhoon, some 1,500 families in Daraga, the town nearest the Mayon Volcano, remain in evacuation centers and transit houses while 3,274 families have no shelter to speak of.

This year's Festival of Trees hopes to raise at least P2.5 million to help build 30 homes. The Amore program hopes to provide homes to some 220 families by the time it is completed.

Rubio stressed that, in addition to shelter, "livelihood is a prime thrust."

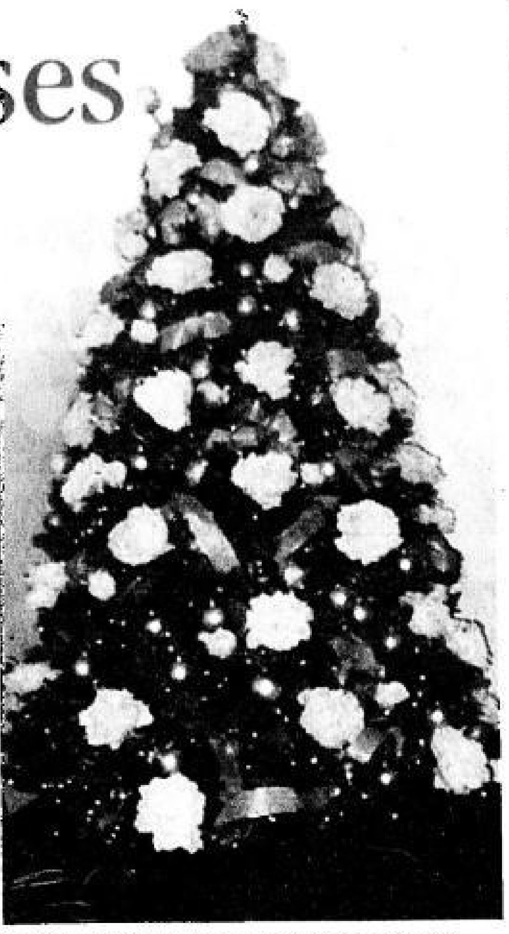
With the help of funds raised through the festival, organizers hoped to enable calamity victims to resume "whatever they used to do."

In the last 11 years, the Festival of Trees raised a total of P60 million for programs that helped create sustainable livelihood opportunities and provide social services to communities most in need of assistance.

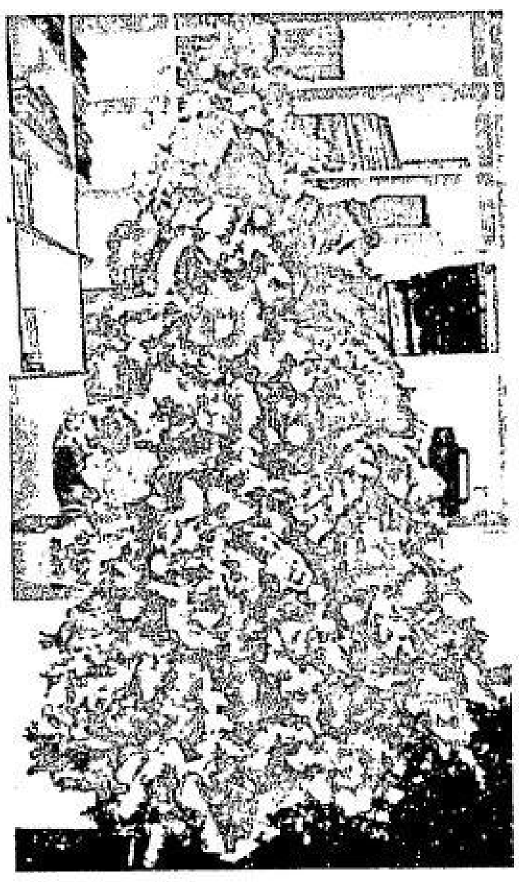
The money also helped promote sustainable development and environmental protection in depressed communities.

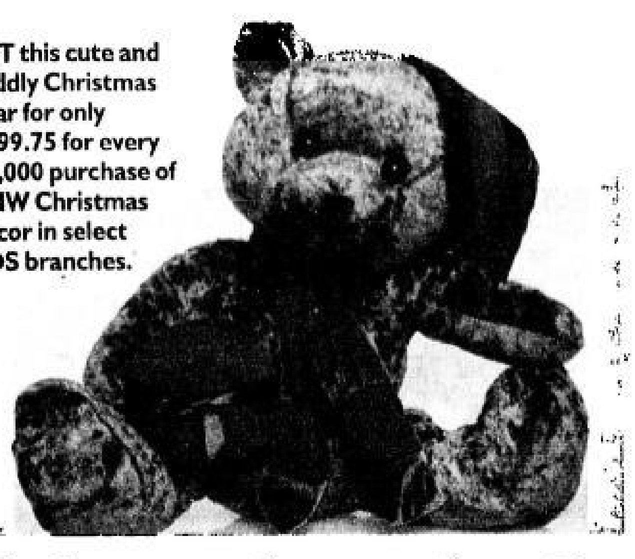
Last year, the event raised more than P1.5 million for landslide victims in Ginsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte.

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido



TWO Christmas trees by MGC president Maria Luisa Perez-Rubio





GET this cute and cuddly Christmas bear for only P199.75 for every P1,000 purchase of BNW Christmas decor in select RDS branches.

Christmas decorating tips

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT Store (RDS) shares in the joy of the holiday season by offering a glittering array of décor to enhance the Christmas celebration.

Shoppers have a wide selection of decorative items to suit their individual tastes and preferences.

Among the items available are Nativity sets, Christmas trees, different kinds of balls, ribbons, flowers, ferns and garlands. They are available not just in the traditional green and red but also metallic silver, gold, white, pink and purple.

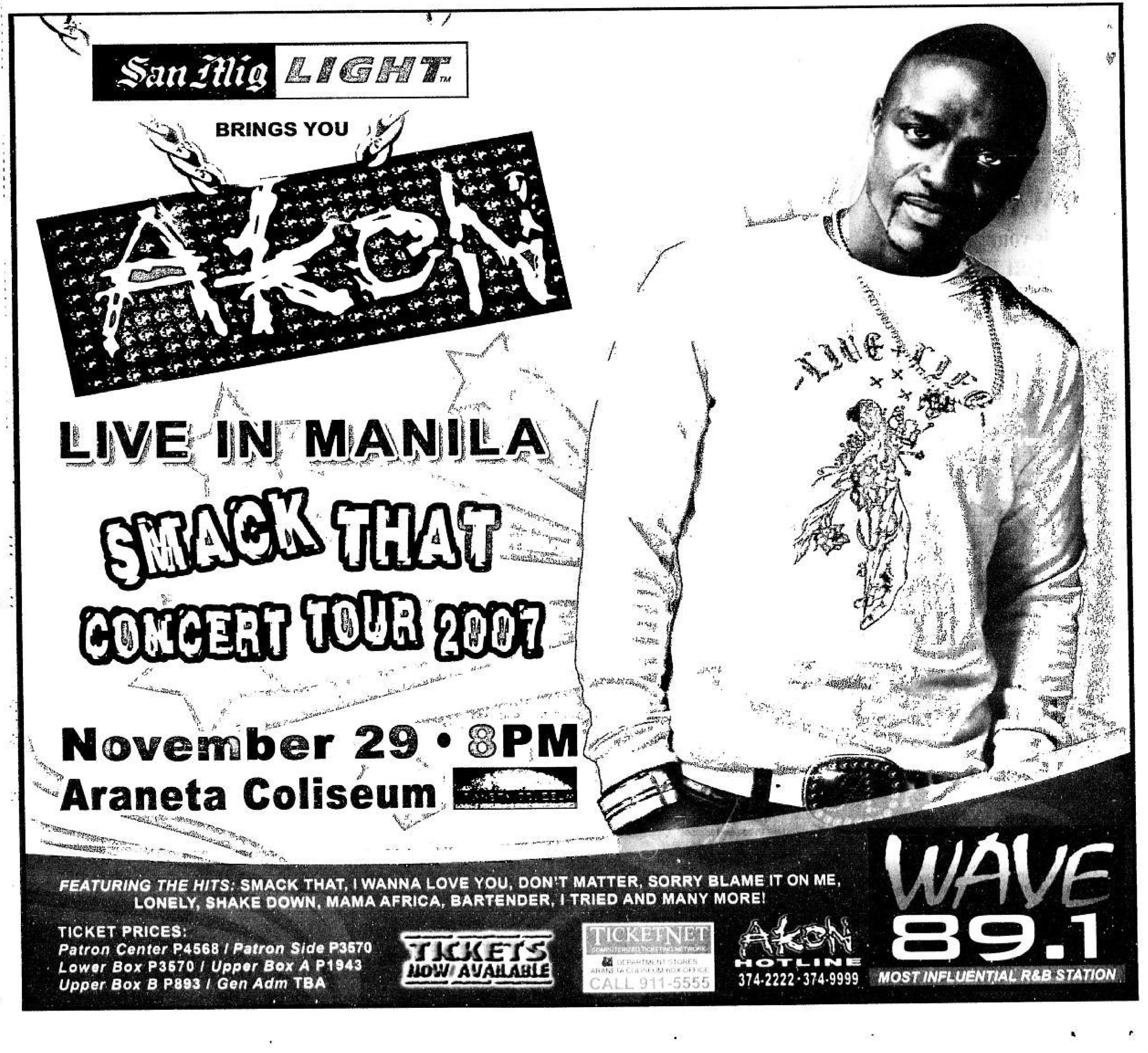
Here are some decorating tips from RDS:

- Tie ribbons around chairs to brighten up the dining table. They can also be used with curtains, doorknobs and candleholders.
- Hang a beautiful wreath or swag at the front door. You can even make your own.
- Place ornaments on side tables, cabinets, television tops, desks, shelves, coffee tables and just about anywhere that could use some cheering up. RDS has singing and moving Santa Clauses and snowman figurines, flower arrangements, candles, wired glittered reindeer with beads, twig cone decor and Christmas villages, among others.
- Put Christmas teddy bears in your child's bedroom and hang colorful stockings to be filled with goodies.

Cute and cuddly stuffed toys are available at RDS for only P199.75 with every P1,000 worth of purchase of BNW Christmas décor.

Dancing snowmen sell for only P299 with every P1,000 purchase of Golden Hit Christmas décor at selected RDS branches. Visit www.rds.com.ph.

SANTA with harmonica, P680



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Christmas giving is the real thing

From page H1

PRESIDENTIAL daughter Luli Arroyo

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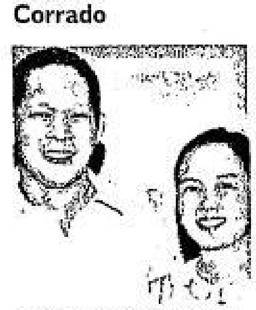
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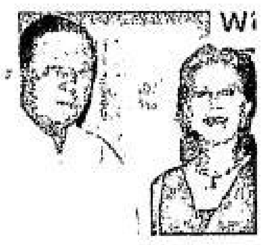

SERGIO and Ching Montinola

ELBERT Cuenca

and goes to Metro Manila on Dec. 8, Cebu City on Dec. 15, and Davao City on Dec. 22. Five lucky families from each region will get a chance to play games and win prizes of as much as P100,000. One super lucky family may even become instant millionaires.

At the launching event at the Araneta Center, I participated in a delightful Christmas extravaganza, complete with delicious food and Coca-Cola Christmas Caravan games and prizes. Of course, I got all dressed up to spread Christmas cheer in a bejeweled **Rajo Laurel** gown. I was a tad overdressed as I sold Tessa's Siomai in my very own food booth, but it was all for a good cause.

The biggest sales were notched by **Zanjoe Marudo**, who sold a ton of Famous BBQ's out of his personalized stall. The husband-and-wife team of **Christopher de Leon** and **Sandy Andolong** also garnered selling honors with their De Leon's Pizza Place. All the top booths earned money for their favorite charities.

My favorite beauty queen, Bb. Pilipinas-Universe **Anna Theresa Licaros**, was present too, selling "Binibining Bibingka" at Puto Bumbong Booth. She was as perfectly poised as ever, exactly the way she was throughout "Celebrity Duets." That's the bearing that wins beauty pageants!

As in any Pinoy gathering, along with food came games and prizes. Beside Santa's Photo Booth was the parol-making contest section. First prize went to the Coca-cola Tigers Basketball Team of **Mark Isip, RJ Rizada** and **Mark Telan**. I guess these basketball superstars have gigantic creative hands that are useful outside the courts!

The unveiling of the Coca-Cola Christmas Caravan itself was a colorful symphony of bright lights, marching bands, Santa's girls and jugglers. Initiated by Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines CEO **David Lyons** and his team, **Chinky Alcedo, José Mallman** and **Kandy Anand**, the event was capped off with the lighting of the Araneta Center Giant Christmas Tree.

Since the Coke campaign is all about family, the event was hosted by the Magalona showbiz family, led by **Francis Magalona**, his wife **Pia** and daughter **Maxene** with the rest of her siblings. The Coca-Cola Ride to Fame winners, composed of champion **Ava Jugueta** and finalists **Daryl Lagos** and **Qwyncy Siclot**, did a song and dance number as well.

New travel magazine

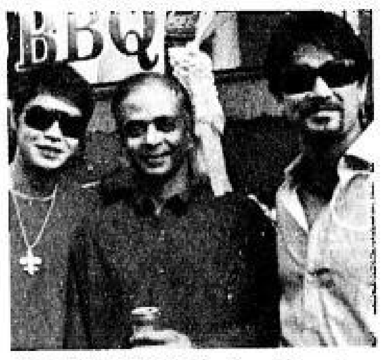
Clearly the countdown to Christmas is already in the air! This year, holiday economics means it's advisable that we plan our well-deserved holiday vacations well ahead. To help our imaginations get going, check out the newest travel magazine in town, TraveLife.

APPLES Aberin-Sadhwani, Kaye Tinga, Mia Borromeo and Liza Ilarde

COCA-COLA's Chinky Alcedo, David Lyons and José Mallman

JUDY Gutierrez and Ingrid Go

LEICA Carpo and Tessa Prieto-Valdes


HEARTTHROB Zanjoe Marudo, Coca-Cola's Kandy Anand and Richard Gomez

CELEBRITY food booths at the Christmas Caravan launch

At the magazine's much-talked-about launch party, expert host **Johnny Litton** welcomed business and government bigwigs as well as the diplomatic corps. First Daughter **Luli Arroyo** was one of the special guests, as she is featured in the premiere issue. Over 30 lucky guests were winners in the raffle that included trips to Los Angeles, Shanghai and Palau.

MANDARIN Oriental Manila GM Helmut Gaisberger

TraveLife publisher **Christine Cunanan** and editor-in-chief **Liza Ilarde** are truly passionate about traveling. Together with their team, interesting feature stories and adventures enlighten traveling readers.

The impressive magazine was the centerpiece of the action at the intimate, brunch party held at The Spa at Mandarin Oriental, Manila. Liza was one of the spa guests invited to experience a peaceful journey of the senses through the many relaxing services offered.

The Spa's tranquil environment and expert service pampers all guests. Entering the warmly appointed interiors, one is bathed in the scent of healing oils. Spacious private rooms complete with amenities are perfectly designed for treatments ranging from body massage, body scrub, specialized facial and customized body treatments.

Aside from all these soothing services, The Mandarin's Spa offers yoga sessions with its resident yogi **Rajendra Pandey**. The Indian guru is extremely knowledgeable with yoga practice and way of life. His enlightening talk was a cleansing for the mind for all the guests.

The delicious spread of light and healthy cuisine dishes, refreshing juices and herbal teas delighted the appetite without that heavy-after feeling. Town & Country editor-at-large **Mia Borromeo** was happy to spend her morning in the company of fine food and good friends. Mandarin general manager **Helmut Gaisberger** was only too proud to have the affair in his hotel's Thai-themed, luxury spa.

Indeed, The Spa at Mandarin is already generating great word-of-mouth among the spa cognoscenti. Aside from holistic treatments, it has special programs and membership packages offering as much as 30-percent off on services during non-peak hours. You can call the Spa Concierge at the Mandarin Oriental at 7500968 or 7508888 to schedule a treatment. What better way to get ready for Christmas?

Christmas time is indeed family time. It's also travel time, spa time and feel-good time. But remember to spread the happy cheer around as much as you can, thus making the season brighter for as many as possible. Now that would truly be the real thing!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

PREACHER IN BLUE JEANS LEADS KERYGMA CONFERENCE

BO SANCHEZ'S
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YOU HAVE THE
POWER

November 23-25, 2007
Philsport Stadium
(formerly the Ultra)

Preacher in Blue Jeans Bo Sanchez leads the Kerygma Conference, this year's biggest inspirational event, at the ULTRA in Pasig City, November 23, 24, and 25.

Bo Sanchez recently received the Serviam Award, the top award given by the Catholic Mass Media Awards to lay people who dedicate themselves in serving God. He was also named as one of The Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines (TOYM) in the field of Community Development and Public Service in Journalism in 2006.

His exceptional gift of humorous preaching and Bo's ability to present the Gospel with great simplicity are just some of the reasons why he is one of the most sought-after speakers and retreat masters in the country today. That's also why his Catholic inspirational magazine, Kerygma, is the most widely circulated inspirational magazine in the country today.

The Kerygma Conference centers on the theme "You Have the Power: Be Nourished. Empowered. Unleashed." The conference addresses persons who suffer hunger, weakness, and imprisonment of the spirit even in the midst or perhaps because of the raging technology revolution.

Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, leads the Opening Mass on Day 1 of the conference while Bishop Teodoro Bacani officiates the Holy Mass on Day 2, November 24, at 9 a.m. Well-known healer-priest Fr. Joey Faller leads the Healing Mass on Day 3, November 25, which starts at 11:30 a.m., to be concelebrated by missionary priest Fr. Joseph Skelton. Fr. Faller will hold a healing session right after the Mass.

Christopher De Leon leads celebrity guests attending the Kerygma Conference. Dulce, Nolyn Cabahug, Nyoy Volante, Adrian Panganiban and Reuben Laurente are the other top performers gracing the event.

The Kerygma Conference opens on November 23 at 5 p.m. Conference tickets are sold at P500.00 each. For details, call 725-9999 or log onto www.**kerygmaconference.com**. Tickets are also sold at all Yoshinoya outlets.

The Kerygma Conference 2007 is sponsored by: Co-Presentors — Microdata Systems and Management, Inc., Yoshinoya, Hyundai, International Marketing Group, Citisec Online Stockbrokers; Media Partners — ABC 5, Business Mirror, Veritas 846 Radyo Totoo, Jam 88.3 and Inquirer Libre; Sponsors — The Mutual Fund Management Company of the Philippines, Inc., Buns and Pizza, Gerry's Grill, Thousand Oaks Packaging Corporation, Manswork Architectural and Civil Works, The Mabuhay Manor, Asian Spirit, Luxure Properties and Development Corporation, Mentos, Chupa Chups, CDO Foodsphere, Inc., Pru Life U.K., Macam Motor Works, Korben, Legend Villas, Bayan, Nescafe and Havitall Vitamins.

FRANK Evaristo, Christine Cunanan, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon and Cory Quirino

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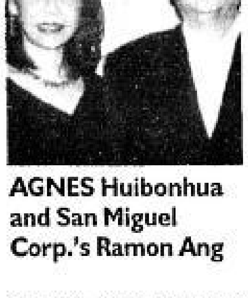
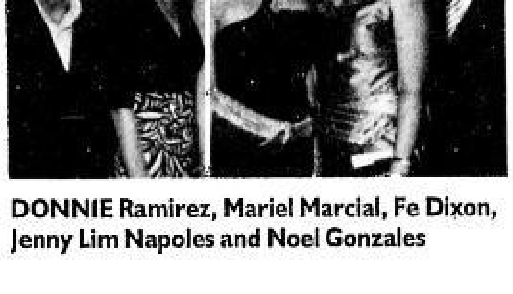

AGNES Huibonhua and San Miguel Corp.'s Ramon Ang

LINGLING and Archie King

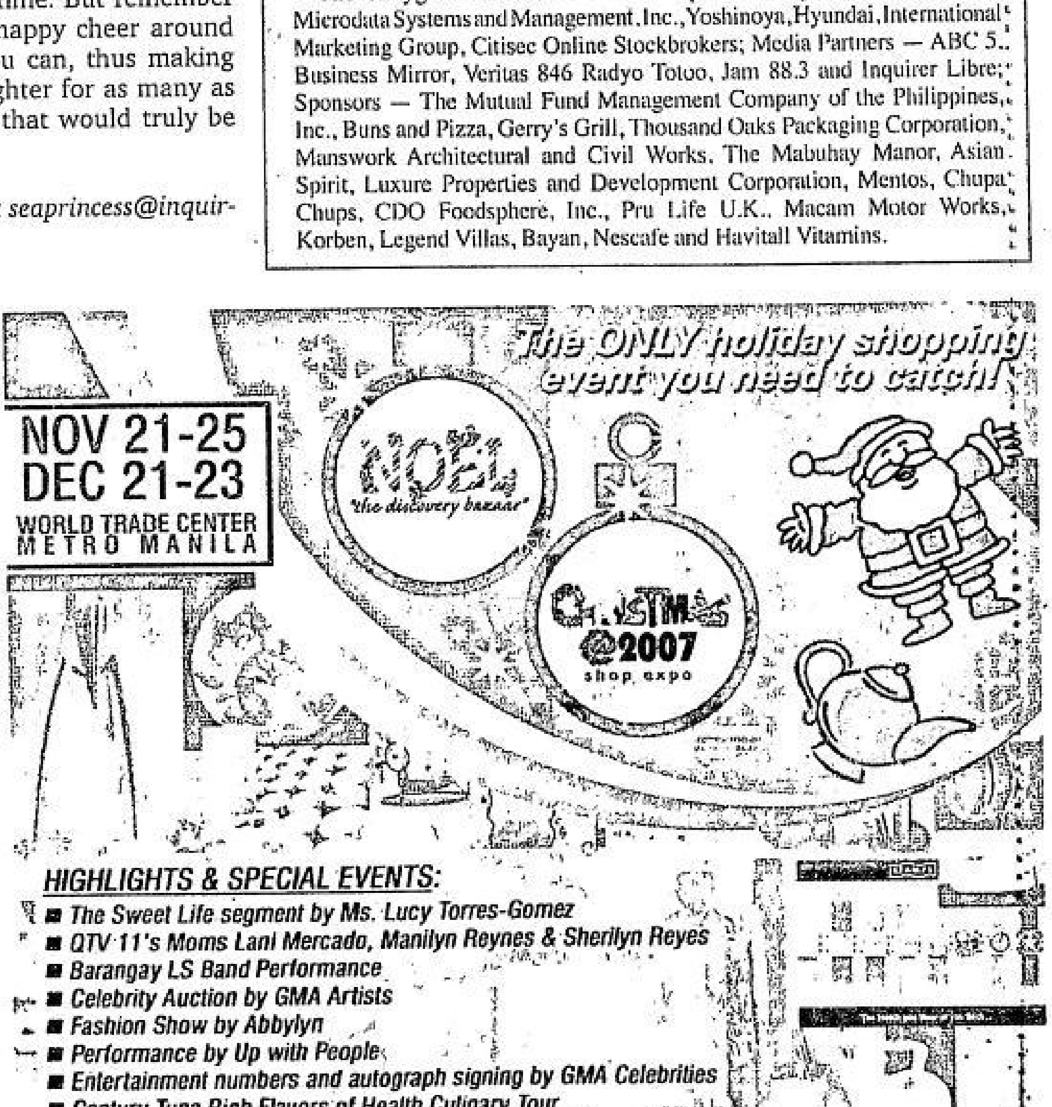
GEORGE Yang of McDonald's Phil. and JP Morgan Japan's Keichi Miki

FERNANDO Peña, honorary consul for Estonia, with TraveLife models

MARIVIC Limcauco and Maja Olivares-Co


DONNIE Ramirez, Mariel Marcial, Fe Dixon, Jenny Lim Napoles and Noel Gonzales

FERDIE Salvador, Makati Shangri-La's Joy Wassmer and Greg Dogan, Ambassador to Russia Victor Garcia and wife Connie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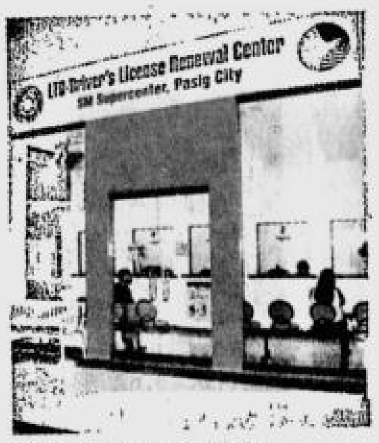
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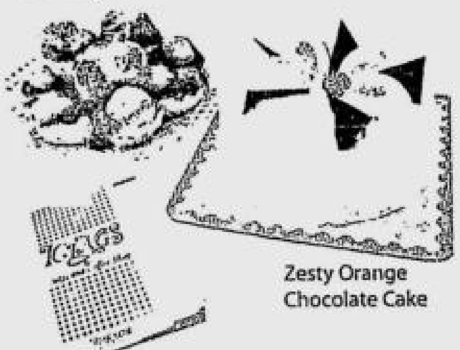

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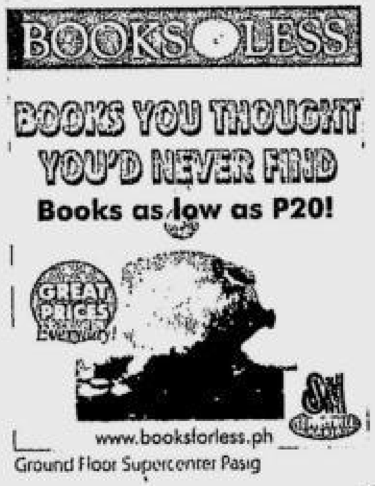
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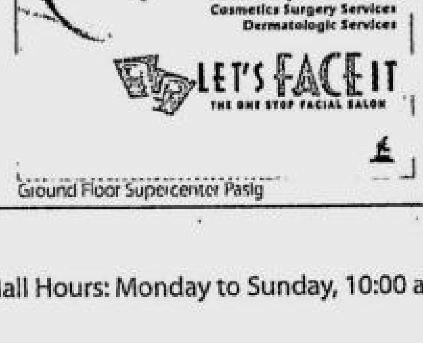
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Raise your child's EQ

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

> Many studies show that emotional intelligence may be as or even more important than IQ

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENT, IQ, is popular, but there are other ways of looking at how well we think. Indeed, psychologist Howard Gardner says that all of us possess multiple intelligences, from language and spatial skills to social and body knowledge.

Many studies show that emotional intelligence may be as or even more important than IQ. In 1990, psychologists Peter Salovey and John Mayer defined it as "a subset of social intelligence that involves the ability to monitor one's own and others' feelings and emotions, to discriminate among them and to use this information to guide thinking and actions."

In 1995, psychologist Daniel Goleman wrote the best-selling book of the same name, and now, emotional intelligence has come to describe emotional qualities important to success in life, such as empathy, self-control, independence, adaptability, persistence, friendliness, kindness, respect, and problem-solving skills.

EQ (emotional quotient) is harder to measure than IQ. Various EQ tests exist, but there is less agreement on their validity. "But although EQ may never be measured [well], it is still a meaningful concept," says psychologist Lawrence Shapiro. "While we cannot readily measure most personality and social traits, we can recognize them in children and agree to their importance."

From my work with children and adolescents, I believe that every individual possesses EQ to some degree, though some traits are more pronounced in certain people. Some children are more resilient, others are kinder, and still others are better problem solvers. As parents, we would like our children to develop as many positive EQ traits as possible.

Shapiro's book "How to Raise a Child with a High EQ" is an excellent starting point. It discusses the different social, emotional and moral stages children go through, and best of all, it provides practical ways for parents to help children deal with everyday life.

Some don'ts

- Do not hide problems from children. We naturally try to protect our kids from stress, but in the long run, this can be harmful. Children who haven't learned to deal effectively with problems cannot face life squarely later on. They are much more resilient

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Per DTI-CPO No. 75, Series of 2007.

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Her sister is the other woman

DEAR EMILY,

I have been married for two years and have two children.

A month ago I caught my husband with another woman in our bedroom... none other than my 17-year-old sister!

I caught him doing things he should not be doing to my sister although there was no actual sex. But it was enough for me to realize there was something going on between them.

I talked to my sister and she confessed that my husband was in love with her and wanted her to be his girlfriend.

She also told me that my husband had been giving her money to buy what she wanted and sent text messages to her constantly. She said she did not feel the same way about him.

When I confronted my husband, he did not deny what happened and said it started eight months before as a joke. I was then four months pregnant.

He asked for another chance and we are still together because of my children. I also told my in-laws about it and they wanted me to give their son another chance.

I am still in a state of shock and I really do not know what to do.

SAD MOM

Your husband would not have been emboldened to pursue your sister had she given him a very clear signal from day one that he was being an A-1 jerk.

And she should have told you of his sexual intentions immediately!

But catching them in such a compromising position clearly indicates that they have already graduated to that level of comfort to do blatantly what you caught them doing in your own bedroom!

Your sister is naughty, naughty, naughty! To say that she does not feel for your husband what he feels for her, only means that she is in for the fun of it.

And your husband is acting like an old fool! The distinction between who is the predator and who is the victim is now hard to see.

Your husband and sister can say sorry in all languages and swear on a stack of bibles that they are sorry for what they did, but nothing doing if it is all lip service.

How sure are you that they will not be meeting on the side and continuing this forbidden and exciting relationship? With all the covert conveniences like cell phone and e-mail available to them, who would know?

What if she gets pregnant by your husband? Your sister, who seems not to care that she is throwing her young life away, must be made to realize there is a whole world out there to conquer.

She is flushing her future down the toilet with all this hanky-panky with your husband!

Instead of looking forward and preparing for her future, she is wallowing in this cesspool of a relationship. And at 17!

Somebody better put some sense and order in her corrupted mind because she is at that age when values are already set in stone.

When your shock wears off and you are able to think more clearly, you and your husband better have an honest, heart-to-heart talk for the sake of your children.

Make it clear what you want in this marriage. The lives of two very young, impressionable kids may be in jeopardy.

How greatly that thought will figure in your husband's conscience will depend on how much he values their future. His animal passion versus his sense of family? Eenee meenie miney...

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Log on to www.pbs.gov.ph and listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

Raise your child's EQ

From page 11

than we often give them credit for.

- Do not hide our flaws. Children need to face reality in their thinking and expectations, and one way to do this is to accept parents' positive and negative attributes. Of course, it would be better when we tell them that we are doing our best to improve ourselves, and make a genuine effort to do so.
- Do not tolerate problems in children simply because we have the same issues. Not surprisingly, we, together with our kids, often have similar problems, such as say, fear of math. But if we are struggling with a bad temper or depression, we should seek help to change our own ways as well as our children's.
- Do not step in when children find a task difficult. I am not a fan of professional tutoring mainly because mediocre tutors do the work for kids, hindering learning. When children fail, encourage them to try again. They need to overcome frustration and persist in the face of failure. When they finally learn to cope with their own problems, they gain self-confidence and learn social and cognitive skills.
- Do not let children surround themselves with violent content in popular media. Whether or not TV leads to aggression, research has shown that children exposed to violence become desensitized to other people's feelings and concerns. It is impossible to shield our kids from violence, and indeed, our 9-year-old son Scott watches certain action movies. But we watch the films together, and my husband and I fast-forward through scenes we do not want him to see. With the plummeting prices of DVDs, we now prefer to watch movies at home rather than go to the cinema.

Some dos

- View life with optimism. Optimistic children are happier, more successful in school, and are physically stronger. Children learn optimism and pessimism primarily from watching and listening to us. A compliment I treasure is "Scott is so alive! He is so happy!" Scott replies, "A joke a day keeps the doctor away."
- Cultivate friends, and encourage children to do so. Having one or more best friends, especially between the ages of nine and 12, is a critical milestone for kids to learn intimate relationships. During vacation, Scott invites close friends to the house for sleepovers, something everyone looks forward to.
- Enforce rules clearly and consistently. Many psychologists believe that defiance, underachievement and antisocial behavior stem from overly permissive parents, who give in to their children's every whim. There is no need to be harsh and overbearing, but children feel safer when limits are set. Be nurturing, but learn when to say no.

For instance, Scott knows that the rule in our household is work before play. Once, I invited him to go to the mall, but he said, "Wait, I need to finish my assignments first." After he had done so, we went to the bookstore.

- Encourage children to talk about problems. We generally do not like to talk about what upsets us, but children need to verbalize what they feel. Giving words to feelings can change the way their brain develops, forming links between the emotional and thinking parts, and helping kids face problems better.
- Get involved in the community. Unfortunately, many children spend time outside school on tutoring or similar programs. But children learn to care about others by doing, not just by talking about religion in class. Community service teaches children social skills and, most importantly, empathy for others in society.

"How to Raise a Child with a High EQ," by Lawrence Shapiro, is available in PowerBooks.

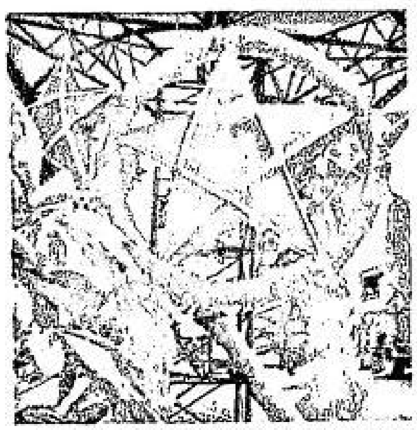
DOT holds lantern parade

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT) through its National Capital Region office will hold the first Philippine Lantern Parade on Dec. 1.

The lantern parade "Paskong Pasko sa Kamaynilaan 2007" is part of the DOT-NCR promo to attract more tourists.

The parade will start at Baywalk, passing the main thoroughfare of Roxas Boulevard, and will culminate at Rizal Park where entries will be judged. It will be participated in by the region's local government units and the private sector. The regional lanterns will be presented by clusters, each interspersed with a marching contingent of brass bands, festival dancers and artists from the local entertainment scene.

The country's lantern parade will showcase the ingenuity and craftsmanship of the Filipino lanternmaker as well as his passion for music and extravaganza featuring the varied shapes, shades and sounds of Christmas celebrations.



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ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

Coping with suicide

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

How can parents explain suicide to children, and what can they and educators do to try and prevent suicide as much as possible?

THE THING THAT STRUCK ME most about the young girl who died of suicide a few weeks ago was the richness of her emotions and the depth of her pain. For someone so young, she wrote with such pathos. Just by reading her words, you could touch her pain.

There are many unanswered questions, and to this day, I understand that psychologists from the private sector and the DSWD continue to look into the case. The child was clearly depressed. It was not just poverty that killed her, but, I'd venture to say, a confluence of many factors.

Rina Jimenez David has written about media's responsibility towards the manner by which suicide should be reported, and Michael Tan has talked about the role that hopelessness and loneliness play in young suicides. Let me now try to discuss how parents can explain suicide to children and what they and educators can do to try and prevent suicide as much as possible.

Depression is a major factor in death by suicide. First of all, it needs to be stressed that it is no longer correct or sensitive to say that someone "committed suicide." The Compassionate Friends (TCF), a US-based organization of bereaved parents, has taken a historic step to modernize the language, which describes a death by suicide. Its Board of Directors has officially adopted the terms "died by suicide" or "died of suicide" to replace the commonly used "committed suicide" or "completed suicide."

TCF says that the old expressions perpetuate a stigma that is neither accurate nor relevant to today's society. "We now know that many suicides are the result of brain disorders or biochemical illnesses such as clinical depression. But the stigma associated with suicide often forces family members to choose between secrecy about the death and social isolation. Their hesitancy to seek the support of the community increases their pain and makes their healing more difficult. Families who have had a child die by suicide are helped in their grief by the use of non-judgmental language," says the TFC bulletin.

Complicated grief

Suicide is categorized as a complicated type of grief, and it is a death that is never easy to discuss. How does one explain the death to a child when such a thing happens?

The Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE) website says that age needs to be the prime consideration when explaining any type of loss to a child. The important thing is to be honest because, one day, the child will eventually find out the truth.

Usually, the first question a child will ask is "what is suicide?" The SAVE site suggests that one way to explain is that people die in different ways, from cancer, heart attacks, car accidents, or old age, for example.

"Suicide simply means that a person caused his or her own death intentionally; it doesn't have to mean more than that. However, also explaining that the person they loved caused their own death because they had an illness in their brain can also be helpful. If they press for more detail, use your discretion to help the child understand as much as is age-appropriate."

It is important for the child to understand that the person who died loved them, but that because of illness, he or she may have been unable to convey that, or to think about how the child would feel after the death. "The child needs to know that the suicide was not their fault, and that nothing they said or did, or didn't say or do, caused the death."

The site enumerates the following ways to explain suicide to a child:

"He had an illness in his brain (or mind) and he died."

"Her brain got very sick and she died."

"The brain is an organ of the body just like the heart, liver and kidneys. Sometimes it can get sick, just like other organs."

"She had an illness called depression and it caused her to die."

However, the parent also needs to stress to the child that depression per se does not cause someone to die by suicide, but rather that there are options for getting help such as medication and psychotherapy or both.

Schools have a responsibility as well to explain and debrief the student body when a student passes away due to suicide. A few years back, psychiatrist Dr. Elizabeth Rondain and I had the opportunity to discuss the subject at a private girl's school when a death by suicide rattled the whole school community.

It was also a chance to explain to the girls (in age-appropriate language) what the whole concept of suicide was about, creating in them an awareness of the signs to look out for among their classmates. This was a far cry from when I was a high school student in the '80s, when the "s" word was only talked about behind closed doors.

Intervention programs

In 2005, Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, perhaps borne out of her own loss, filed Senate Bill 1946, an act that seeks to empower the Department of Education (DepEd), The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical and Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to require all the school heads to report all the incidents of student suicide in their respective schools, whether consummated, attempted or frustrated, and to provide a program for student suicide early intervention and prevention.

Senator Pia Cayetano, who heads the Senate Health Committee says, that there is definitely a need to look into the issue.

"I agree that it is a very emotional and touchy subject which makes a lot of people uncomfortable. As such, not enough information is available to parents/school personnel and others in a position to help the potential suicide victims. The bill is laudable because it will address the need for information. The reporting requirement alone will give the government the initial info it needs to put programs in place."

According to Senator Cayetano, the bill will be refiled by Senator Defensor's office in the 14th Congress.

I think it is important for schools to have suicide prevention programs set in place. Perhaps the Philippine Pediatric Society, the Philippine Psychiatric Society and the Department of Education can pool together their resources to create a program that can be used by both public and private schools.

Programs to address the issues of hopelessness, to strengthen available support systems especially in view of the deteriorating fabric of the Filipino family, need to be created and put into place.

A suicide awareness program for parents, teachers, school administrators would certainly be most helpful. More crisis help lines need to be set up and manned by trained volunteers. An advocacy for a deeper understanding and appreciation of both the physiologic and psychological roots of depression may perhaps prevent more deaths by suicide from taking place.

For parents who have lost their children, TCF-Philippines will hold the Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 9. Believed to be the largest mass candle lighting on the globe, the Worldwide Candle Lighting creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone. Hundreds of formal candle-lighting events are held and thousands of informal candle lightings are conducted in homes as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.

If you would like to participate in this event, please e-mail me or Noemi Dado at noemidado@gmail.com

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

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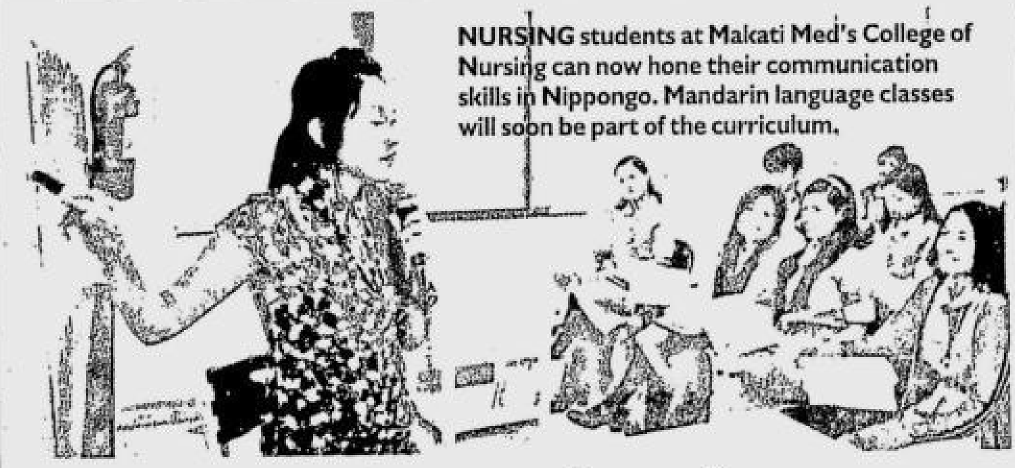
NURSING students at Makati Med's College of Nursing can now hone their communication skills in Nippongo. Mandarin language classes will soon be part of the curriculum.

Top nursing school

IN NEW YORK MAGAZINE'S 2006 survey of the best hospitals in the state, three medical teaching institutions have been ranked as the top providers of quality healthcare. Given its affiliation with the latest research protocols and scientific developments, teaching hospitals enjoy an advantage in terms of medical expertise.

One of the top-performing hospitals in the Philippines, Makati Medical Center (MMC) has its own college. Makati Med's College of Nursing continuously delivers quality healthcare education under industry experts.

Since its inception in June 1976, the college has been committed to its objective of promoting excellence in teaching, research and service. What started as a school of nursing with less than 100 students has steadily grown into a college with almost 900 students.

Educational standards in MMC's College of Nursing are among the highest in the Philippines. The school offers a highly specialized curriculum that addresses today's global challenges in health care. Students receive the best training and supervision from 80 dedicated faculty members, who lend their clinical expertise and knowledge to the academe. The school has up-to-date facilities and provides medical duty training.

Critical preparation for the nursing board exam takes place during the senior year when students are in their prime. Prior to undergoing a one-month review course, the learning institution holds comprehensive examinations to assess student aptitude and readiness. Clinical instructors also provide helpful guide questions to students.

In the last Nurse Licensure Examination, Makati Med's College of Nursing posted a 91-percent performance passing rate, with 177 passers out of 194 exam takers, placing 8th overall in the category of schools that had more than 100 takers.

Now on its 30th year, the college has been recently reaccredited by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities' (Paascu). To ensure a holistic education, accreditation is only given to schools that have institutionalized the following areas: faculty, instruction, library, laboratory, physical plant, student services, administration and community service.

According to dean Eden E. Cacanindin, Mandarin language classes will soon be offered to students and professional nurses to hone their communication skills and increase their global competency. This is following the successful offering of Niponggo language in June 2007. Scholarship endowment programs sponsored by the Makati Medical Center will also be given to deserving students.

PLANS for improvement are being mapped out by Dean Eden E. Cacanindin, such as the offering of scholarship grants.

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Participants must have a valid passport to be eligible to join. Promo period: October 1, 2007 - December 1, 2007. Deadline for Submission of entries is on December 1, 2007 at 5:00 pm. There will be one (1) grand prize winner of the "Hong Kong Disneyland Package" that includes three (3) coach class tickets, MNL-HKG-MNL; 3D/2N stay at Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel; three (3) Hong Kong Disneyland park tickets; PhP10,000 pocket money. Trip must be completed within 6 months after the winner claims the prize. Subject to availability of flight schedules and hotel accommodations. The prize is non-transferable but convertible to cash. The grand prize winner will be notified in writing through registered mail and by phone at the number appearing on the raffle coupon.

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SMART PINOY

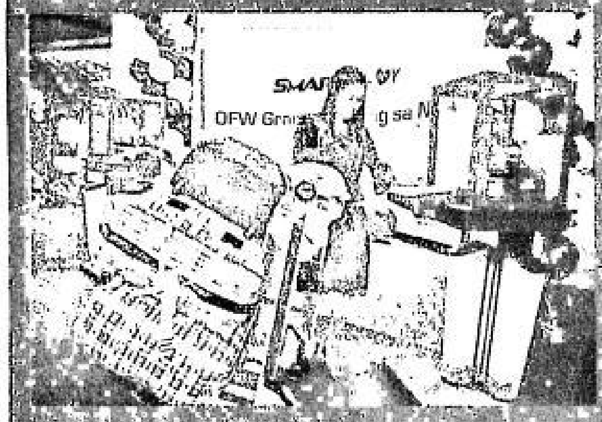
Maligayang Pagdating!

Returning Filipino workers get a "SMART Pinoy OFW Grand Salubong sa NAIA"

A Filipino worker is happy to be back home.

(from left) MIAA Assistant General Manager Florencio Montalbo, SMART Communities and Services Head Lito Villanueva, MIAA Media Affairs Head Ma. Consuelo Bungag, SMART International Services Senior Manager Jane Basas, MIAA Public Assistance Division Head Feliciana Santos, MIAA Corporate Communications Head Jonathan C. de Leon and MIAA Airport Development and Corporate Affairs Assistant General Manager Tirso G. Serrano.

Members of the SMART International Services team with head Jane Basas (center) flanked by Hazel Custodio and Lito Villanueva of SMART's New Business Streams.


It's this Filipina's turn at the vault.

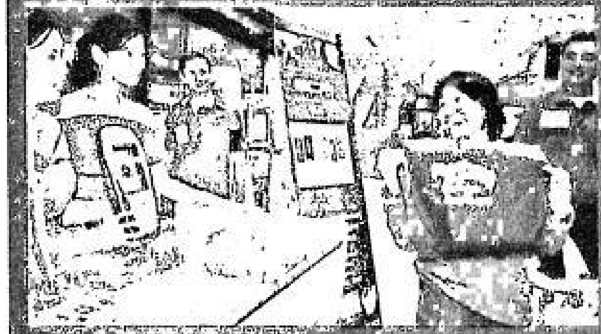
"SMART Pinoy OFW Grand Salubong sa NAIA is our way of paying tribute to our OFWs," says SMART Wireless Consumer Division Head Danilo J. Mojica.

One of the SMART ladies at NAIA shows the 'Pick-a-Prize' gadget.

An Isuzu Crosswind XTi is up for grabs everyday during the three-month tribute to OFWs.

MIAA General Manager Alfonso G. Cusi thanks partners during the launch.

"At NAIA, we go the extra sMILE," says MIAA Airport Development and Corporate Affairs Assistant General Manager Tirso G. Serrano.


A lady passenger is thrilled to 'Pick a Prize' and get a gift item.

Action star Robin Padilla and sexy actress Joyce Jimenez with MIAA personnel.

SMART International Services Senior Manager Jane Basas assists action star Robin Padilla as he tries to break the code and win the car.

Balikbayans try their luck at winning the Isuzu Crosswind XTi.

After spending almost 48 hours on a flight from San Juan, Puerto Rico, Cion Mistiola's thoughts upon landing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) were to freshen up, collect her bags and finally see her loved ones. Imagine her surprise when she stepped out of the airplane and into a warm welcome by officials of SMART Communications, Inc. (SMART) and the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA).

Three-month Tribute to OFWs

Cion is among the first batch of returning Filipino workers to experience the "SMART Pinoy OFW Grand Salubong sa NAIA".

The tribute to OFWs, which runs from November 15, 2007 to February 15, 2008, is a project of SMART and the MIAA, in partnership with Isuzu Philippines and Wow Magic Sing.

"The grand *salubong* that we've mounted this holiday season is our way of welcoming them home and of paying tribute to all OFWs and their families. We hope that they enjoy the slew of prizes and surprises that we've prepared for them," said Danilo J. Mojica, head of SMART's Wireless Consumer Division.

Exciting gifts and prizes

Returning Filipino workers and the rest of the passengers going through NAIA will receive various SMART gift items and a chance to win a brand-new Isuzu Crosswind XTi via the "Break a Code, Own a Car" game. They can also register their SMART SIMs to join the Grand Raffle and get a chance to win more exciting prizes!

To be raffled off are 25 WOW Magic Sing microphones, 30 SMART BRO computer packages, flight miles equivalent to a domestic flight for two for 50 winners, 30 Smart e-Load business packages and a brand-new Isuzu Crosswind XTi Limited Edition.

NAIA, the smiling airport

MIAA General Manager Alfonso Cusi thanked SMART, Isuzu Philippines and WOW Magic Sing for "bringing joy and happiness to our modern-day heroes".

"Our basic objective is to give travelers a pleasant airport experience. As our campaign goes: 'At NAIA, we go the extra sMILE'. Definitely, activities like the SMART Pinoy OFW Grand Salubong sa NAIA are something to smile about," added Tirso G. Serrano, MIAA Airport Development and Corporate Affairs assistant general manager.

Among those who added excitement to the event were action star and SMART endorser Robin Padilla and sexy actress Joyce Jimenez.

Padilla, the familiar face of remittance services *SMART Padala* and *SMART Remit*, said he lauded SMART and MIAA for doing their part to cheer up and honor OFWs, who feel the adverse effects of a lower peso-dollar exchange rate. He urged his 'kabayans' to use SMART services to ensure they stay connected to their loved ones 24/7 even when they are abroad. He also encouraged them to try their luck at the Grand Salubong games to win the prizes in store for them.

Among those who did was Cion. Although she did not win the SUV, she was happy at getting a premium item. "This is great, considering that I really didn't expect a welcome like this," she said.

The "OFW Grand Salubong sa NAIA" is part of SMART's efforts to better serve the global Filipino under SMART Pinoy. SMART is the Filipino's biggest mobile network to the world, serving 28.3 million subscribers as of end September 2007. Its products and services are available in over 200 countries abroad in partnership with over 400 international network partners. Through PLDT Global, SMART also serves the mobile communication needs of Filipinos in Singapore and Hong Kong via 1528 *SMART* and *SMART PINOY SIM*. @

Cion Mistiola, a [illegible] coordinator of Princess Cruises Lines, tries playing the 'Break a Code, Own a Car' game.

SMART Wireless Consumer Division Head Danilo J. Mojica and MIAA General Manager Alfonso G. Cusi formally start the SMART Pinoy OFW Grand Salubong with a handshake. Also in photo are (from left) Isuzu Philippines Corporation Business Vice President Arthur [illegible], Robin Padilla, Joyce Jimenez, MIAA Airport Development and Corporate Affairs Assistant General Manager Tirso G. Serrano, MIAA Airport Security Assistant General Manager Angel Atutubo and MIAA Terminal 2 Assistant General Manager Florencio Montalbo.

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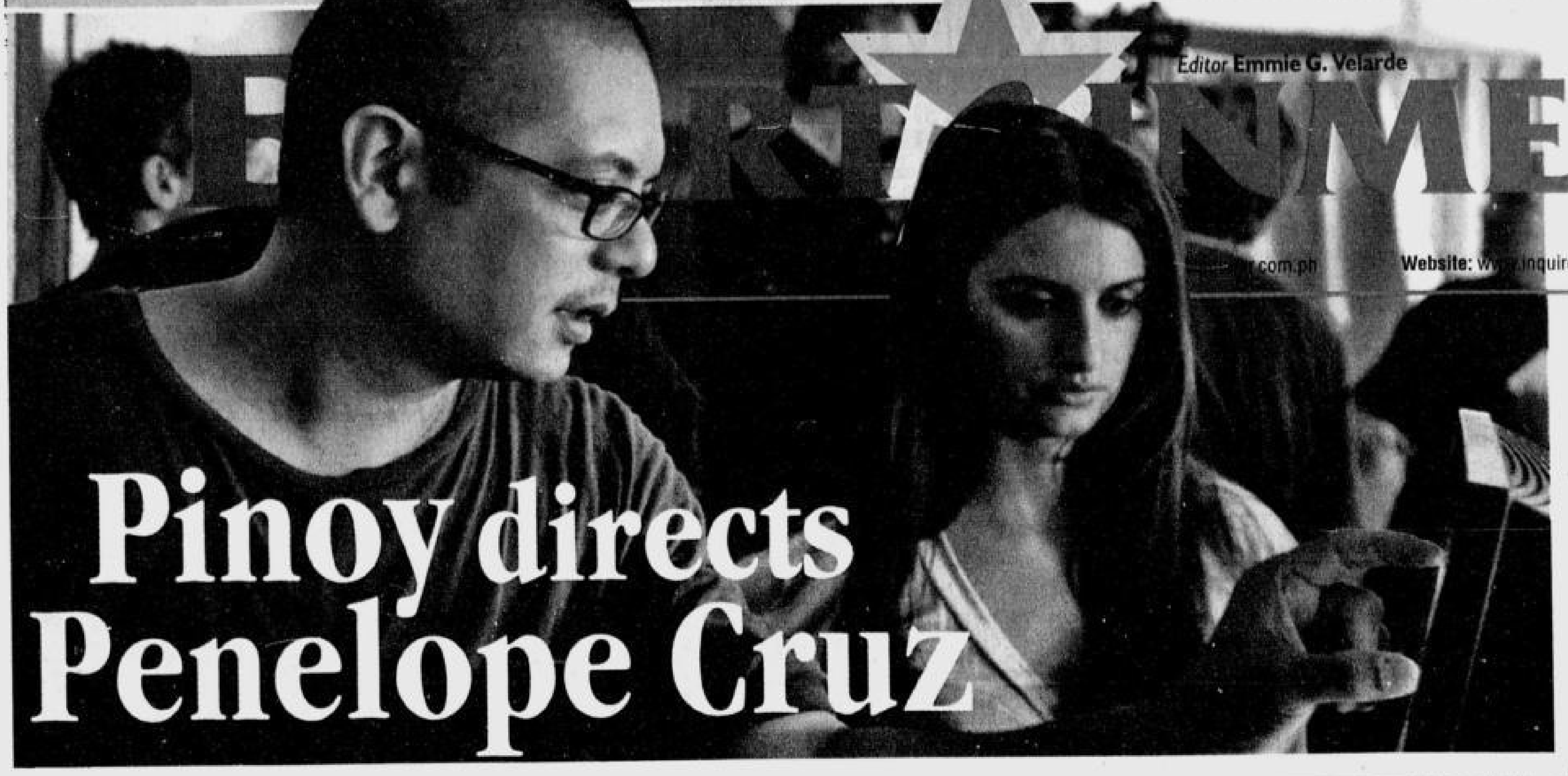

Pinoy directs Penelope Cruz

Martin Arnaldo helms a TV commercial starring the Spanish beauty

THE director with his Hollywood actress subject: "My idea was to let Penelope's personality shine through."

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photo courtesy of Martin Arnaldo

MARTIN ARNALDO, A FILIPINO DIRECTOR who grew up in France and the United States, recalls that he "hyperventilated" the first time he heard the good news.

"After I calmed down, I informed Cecile Guidote, my producer in Unitel, that I might need to move our shoot in Manila in July because of a possible TV ad with (actress) Andie MacDowell in Los Angeles," Martin recalls.

Nothing was certain then. The next time he got a call, there was a slight change in plans.

Ecstatic

"Instead of Andie in LA, I'd be shooting a L'Oréal hair color commercial with Penelope Cruz in Barcelona," says Arnaldo. "Turned out Penelope was wrapping up a Woody Allen film in Spain."

He was ecstatic.

A long waiting game then ensued, he recounts. "I had to write and submit a 'treatment.' The director's notes."

He had to compete with advertising bigwigs, "popular directors who had worked with Penelope and Madonna in the past."

In vying for the job, Arnaldo showed the clients a reel of his previous works, mainly shampoo ads done under Unitel, including those starring KC Concepcion.

While he was attending the Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival in June, Arnaldo learned that he had clinched the deal and that the shoot had been moved to a penthouse in Paris.

Arnaldo surmises that he bagged the Penelope project because he offered a novel approach.

"It's the Asian touch," he says. "My idea was to let Penelope's personality shine through. In previous ads, she came across as cold and stiff. We wanted to present her as warm and natural."

On the day of the shoot on July 12, Arnaldo finally met the Spanish actress and her Hollywood-size entourage.

Cruz, who arrived 11 a.m., brought along her mom, two agents and a few friends to the set.

Cruz and company were housed in two massive trailers.

"One trailer was for hair and makeup and the other one was furnished with flat-screen TV sets and a massage table," he says.

'Tough cookie'

He describes the actress as very meticulous. "She's a tough cookie. She pays attention to the tiniest details."

He noticed that it was vital to put the star at ease.

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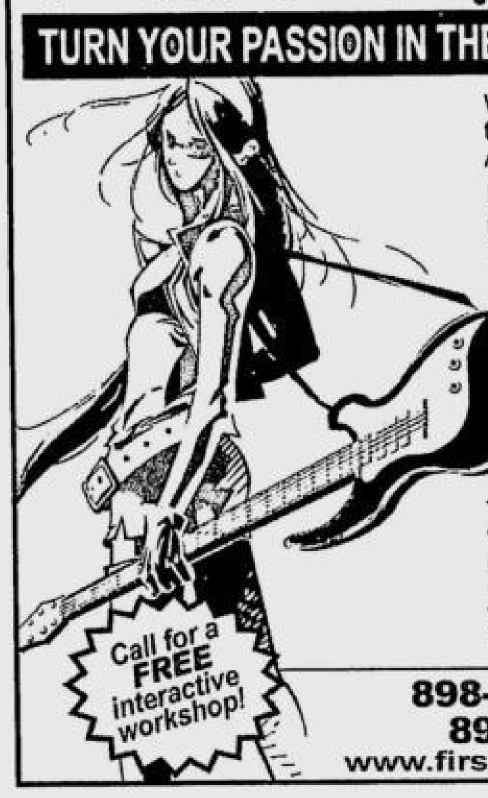

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2 ONE MORE CHANCE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 THE NANNY DIARIES
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 BEOWULF
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00AM

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00AM

7 SUPERBAD
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

8 indieSine: PAIN THINGS
1:00 2:30 4:00 5:30 7:00 8:30

9 GAME PLAN
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

10 BOOGEYMAN 2
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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12:35 3:00 5:35 8:00 10:00

2 BOOGEYMAN 2
11:10 1:25 3:40 5:55 8:05 10:00

3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
12:50 2:40 4:30 6:20 8:10 10:00

4 LUST CAUTION
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

5 ONE MORE CHANCE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 GAME PLAN
12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00

7 THE NANNY DIARIES
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

Midtown

1 SUPERBAD
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

2 ONE MORE CHANCE
11:25 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:25

3 BEOWULF
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

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3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00

4 BOOGEYMAN 2
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

5 SUPERBAD
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

6 LIONS FOR LAMBS
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 BEOWULF
10:50 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

8 THE NANNY DIARIES
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

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3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 SUPERBAD

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2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 SUPERBAD
4 BEOWULF

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2 GHOST SON
3 SUPERBAD
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

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3 HALLOWEEN
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4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 SUPERBAD

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3 RENDITION

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5 BALLS of FURY
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2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 indieSine: NUMBALIKDIWA
4 HALLOWEEN
5 SUPERBAD
6 UNREST

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3 SUPERBAD
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2 (DOLBY) THE GAME PLAN
3 (DOLBY) THE NANNY DIARIES
4 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) SUPERBAD

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 BEOWULF
2 SUPER BAD
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

starmall EDSA-SHAW

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7260150

3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SUPER BAD
5

metropolis star cinema

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8804285, 8433894

1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 UNREST

THEATRES

All Pacific Mall Cabanatuan
Telephone No (044) 600-3025

BALLS OF FURY
SUPER BAD
ONE MORE CHANCE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

ONE MORE CHANCE
BEOWULF

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 THE NANNY DAIRIES
2 BEOWULF
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BOOGEYMAN - 2
6 GAME PLAN
7 BEOWULF
8 BALLS OF FURY/WE OWN THE NIGHT
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 SUPER BAD

Blue Wave MARIKINA

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) SUPER BAD
2 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) BEOWULF
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 LUST CAUTION
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 LUST CAUTION

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)

1 BEOWULF
2 SUPER BAD

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BEOWULF

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 STURDUST

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

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2 BEOWULF
3 THE NANNY DAIRIES
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 HALLOWEEN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 SUPER BAD
4 HALLOWEEN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 UNREST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 RENDITION
2 RESIDENT EVIL

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 SISID
3 TUKSO
4 RENDITION

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 XXX.CMM
3 BEOWULF
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 SUPER BAD

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 SUPER BAD
2 HIGHLANDER
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran), tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 PLEASE CALL
2

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UP Singing Ambassadors

12 top artists perform at 'IDream' album launch

ROBERT SEÑA, ISAY ALvarez, Bituin Escalante, Agot Isidro, Jenine Desiderio, Karylle, Jamie Rivera, Raymund Lauchengco, Luke Mejares, Arthur Manuntag, Carl Balita and Tony Rebosa perform tomorrow, 4:30 p.m. at the Crossroad 77 Convenarium, Mother Ignacia Ave. corner Sct. Reyes St. Quezon City, for the launch of the "IDream" album.

A compilation of pop, Broadway and film soundtrack classics intended to inspire and motivate Filipinos in troubled times, "IDream" features the aforementioned artists with Alvarez as executive producer.

Call 4975704 or log on to www.carlbalita.com.

SHOW TIME

consists of two separate CDs and showcases the best of UPSA's Christmas repertoire. In 2002, group became the only Asian choir to have won the grand prize in the Guido d'Arezzo International competitions in Italy.

Fund-raising for priests

Jose Mari Chan sings in a fund-raising event to build the Cagayan "Haven of Retired Priests" tonight at the Camp Aguinaldo Officers' Club, Quezon City. For tickets, call/text 0917-8992521.

UPSA at Philamlife

The UP Singing Ambassadors (UPSA) will formally launch their debut album with a concert on Nov. 28 at the Philamlife Auditorium, UN Ave. Manila.

The album, "Songs of the Season I & II,"

AKON

Akon at the Big Dome

Akon, the Senegalese-American singer-songwriter whose album "Konvicted" has sold more than five million copies worldwide, performs on Nov. 29 at the Araneta Coliseum.

For tickets call 9115555.

Today

Jed Madela, 5 p.m., at SM Southmall.

Nov. 23

Julianne and Miguel Escueta, 8 p.m. at Figaro Hanston Bldg, Ortigas Center, Pasig.

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WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Pinoy directs…

From page J1

Which he accomplished, with dispatch.

"I think it's the Asian thing. I brought along hair stylists from Thailand who disarmed Penelope with their gentleness," he says. "She also appreciated that she had beautiful angles."

Arnaldo, first cousin of Filipino actress Chin-Chin Gutierrez, knows a thing or two about feminine allure.

Readjusting the camera

"I readjusted the camera because she had a unique face," he says. "In beauty ads, you always shoot above the eye line. But with Penelope, I shot beneath the eye line. I noticed it right away."

He was impressed. "Penelope explodes in front of the camera. There is no bad take with her."

The shoot went smoothly. "She was happy and, at the end of the shoot, she hugged and kissed me. She said that she hopes to work with me again."

He was at a loss for words.

"I was so honored, I just looked at her. I didn't know what to say," he says.

Arnaldo gathered a topnotch team for this L'Oréal shoot.

His assistant director Ali Cherkaoui worked on Ridley Scott's "Gladiator" and Steven Spielberg's "Munich." His director of photography Karl Oskarsson worked in commercials with "world-renowned" directors and in a music video starring Icelandic singer Björk. His sound engineer Alain Curvelier worked in Robert Altman's "Ready to Wear."

But Arnaldo took a circuitous route before he became a director.

After graduating summa cum laude with a degree in Philosophy from Boston College, he took up a doctorate's degree in Literature under novelist Milan Kundera at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris.

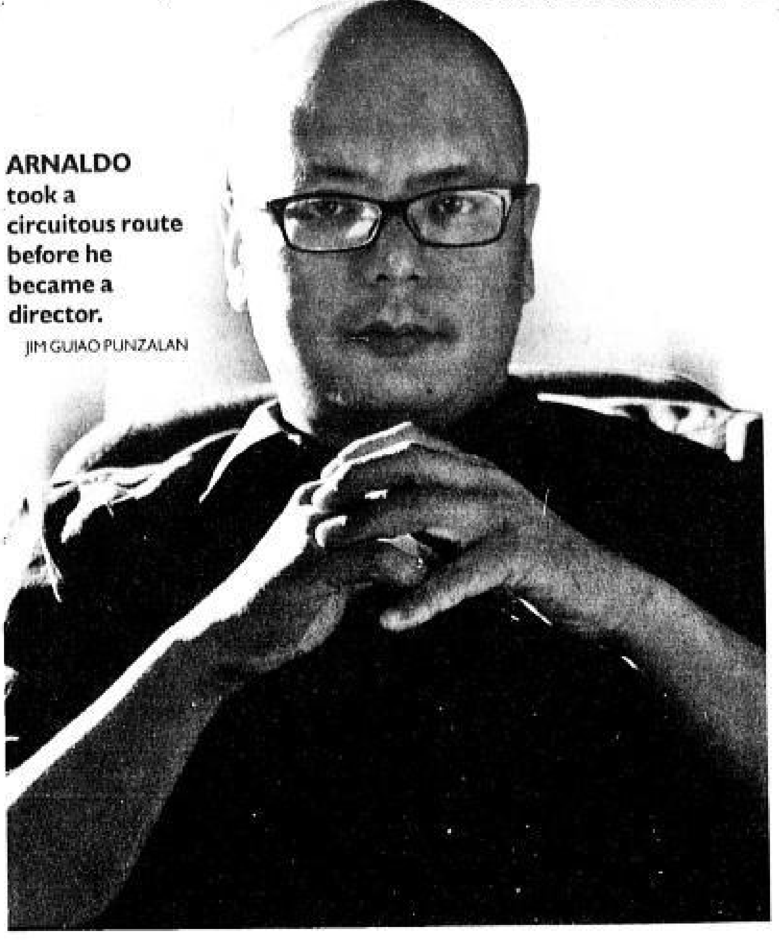
Writing was arduous for Arnaldo who was straddling three cultures: French, American and Filipino.

"I was messed up, thinking in English and writing in French," he admits.

It was while taking in a lecture given by Kundera that he realized his true calling.

"Kundera played classical music while discussing structure and form. It made me think about the nature of structure and images—which go beyond language. I then understood that it was film that I had to do."

In 1996, he finished Film at the Ecole Supérieure de Réalisation Audiovisuelle in Paris.



ARNALDO took a circuitous route before he became a director.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'Project BW'

Soon enough, he directed a short film entitled "Project BW" which utilized the then-cutting edge motion capture technology and was showcased at the Cannes Film Festival in 1998.

"Project BW" also led him back to the Philippines, where it was shown at the French Film Festival in 1998.

Later, he met Tony Gloria of Unitel who signed him up as one of the in-house directors of his advertising production firm.

"When I first met him, I instantly knew that his caliber was international," says Gloria.

Unitel Pictures is teaming up with Arnaldo in crafting his first feature film, "BW," a post-apocalyptic "western" that he intends to shoot in Manila.

He's been nurturing this film since 1998. "We were supposed to shoot in Europe, but when I saw the abandoned buildings in Manila, I decided to shoot here."

He finds Manila "inspiring"; its "chaos and madness," invigorating.

He plans to hire a Pan-Asian cast and work with "Ang Mundo ni Andong Agimat" author/illustrator Arnold Arre as art director. He also wants to tap a Kali troupe from Bacolod.

He insists on using Kali, the Filipino martial art, in action sequences as a tribute to his roots.

"I'm a third generation expat. My grandfather and father were expatriates. My father (who worked for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and I don't speak a word of Filipino. My writing has always been about a search for identity," he explains. "I've always had these questions …"

Returning to and working in the Philippines afford him the chance to give thanks as well.

"The Philippines has been very good to me. It was here that I developed my craft," he says.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① BEOWULF
MTRCB: PG-13 11:20
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

② ONE MORE CHANCE
MTRCB: PG-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

③ THE NANNY DIARIES
MTRCB: GP 12:20, 2:45
5:10, 7:35, 10:00

④ THE GAME PLAN
MTRCB: GP
1:30, 3:55, 6:20, 8:45

PREMIERE THEATRE
SUPER BAD (R-18)
1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00

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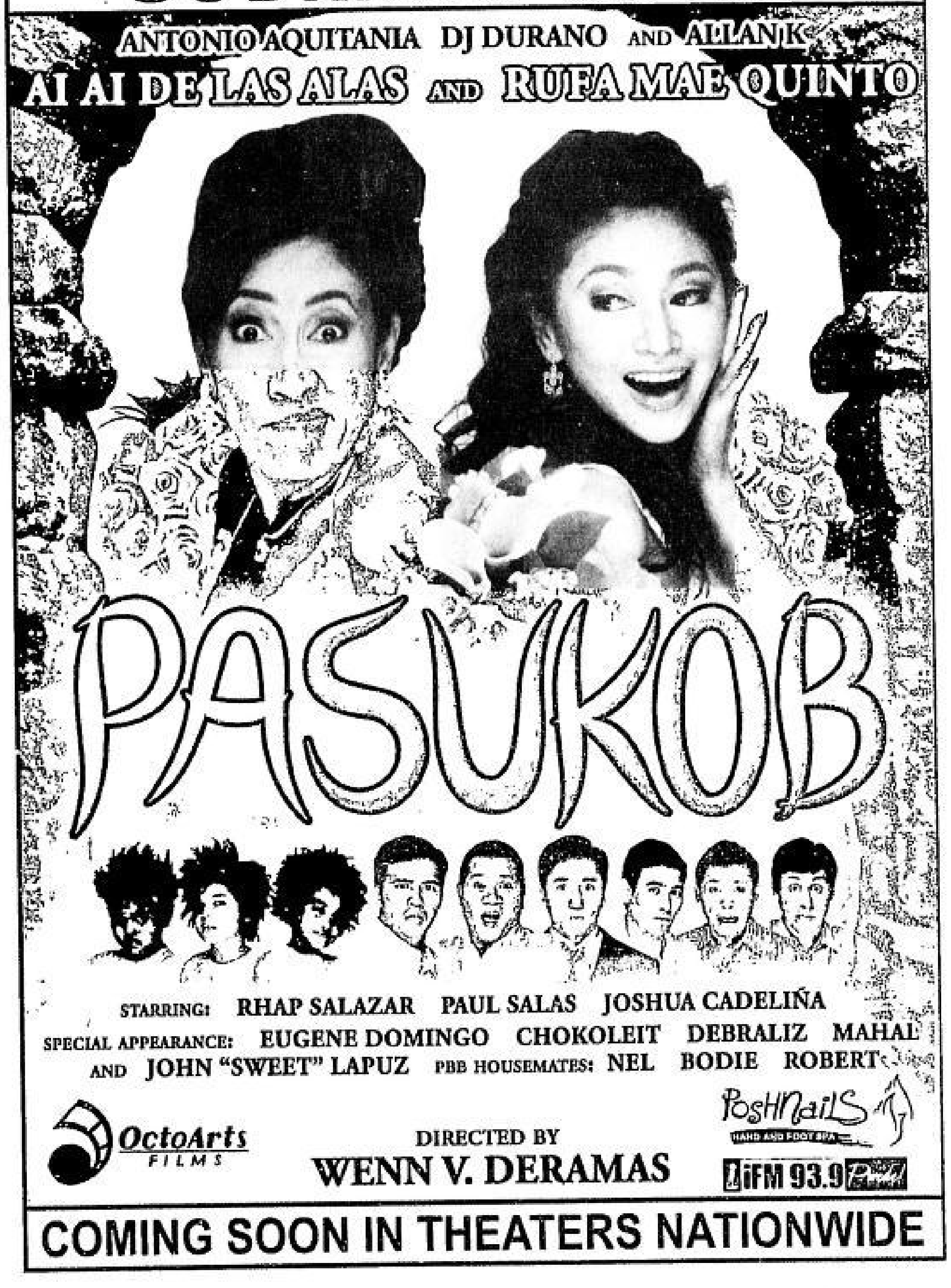

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COMING SOON IN THEATERS NATIONWIDE

A retired womanizer now prefers men

By The INQUIRER Entertainment Staff

RUSHES SUNDAY

A NEW ACQUAINTANCE HAD THE SHOCK of his life when a macho actor, who's separated from his wife, revealed over bottles of beer that he's now retired from womanizing.

"I now prefer men," he quipped between gulps.

Needless to say, the gay guy's new friend distanced himself with dispatch after that stunning disclosure.

Woman scorned

A feisty actress was spotted in a parking lot, giving away her estranged husband's imported sneakers to grateful passersby, which included not a few street urchins.

Apparently, that was her way of getting even.

She's still smarting from rumors that her ex-hubby reunited with his gay lover, a TV director, after their acrimonious split.

Long-term passion

It turned out that the actress' ex-husband was the director's "assistant" years ago—even before the guy made it big as a show biz celebrity.

A mole described the director and celeb's relationship as "long-term and passionate."

Does this explain why the actress has yet to guest on the director's shows?

Bickering boys redux

Remember those bickering sexy actors who complained about each other's unpleasant body odors before shooting a bed scene?

It turned out they are now engaged in a three-way fight with another daring bimbo over show biz projects.

Seems these guys are more petulant than their female counterparts.

Daily exposure

Sexy actor **Janvier Daily**, more infamously known as the boyfriend of **Ethel Booba**, was caught with his pants down.

After his nude photo was posted all over the Net, Ethel was blamed as culprit. Janvier was quick to set the record straight, however.

He reportedly confirmed that the sleeping naked guy in the photo was him, but added that it had been snapped by a roommate.

While Ethel took two years before she owned up to the sex-video scandal with **Alex Crisano**, Janvier took less than a few weeks.

Must be because he has a flesh pic, "Roxxane," in the can.

* * *

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Demandahan blues

- **Paolo-Sam** libel case pushing through.
- Lawyer *ni* **Lolit Solis** *sulat ng* fiscal *ang hinihintay.*

BIANCA King

RUDY ESPERAS

- *"Matagal ko nang alam na magdedemanda sina* Piolo at Sam."—Lolit

- Dennis *nagulat sa demanda ni* **Cristine.**
- Cristine mum about charges filed against Carlene.

'Demanda' blues: Sam-Piolo libel case pushing through; Cristine's lawsuit surprises Dennis

Post-delivery depression

- *Pagiging selosa ni* Carlene, effect ng post-delivery depression.
- *Dahil sa tindi ng pag-ibig kay* Dennis... Carlene *naging* cheap.
- *"Ano ang karapatan niyang gawin 'yon sa kapatid ko?"*—Ara
- Carlene *iniisnab ang* 'Startalk,' *sa Dos magsasalita.*
- Say *ni* Carlene *kay* Dennis: *"Napakasinungaling nun, at kaya nga* best actor *yun e, magaling umarte at mangbola."*

Grand dreams

- **Bianca King**, *nangangarap maging* film producer at scriptwriter.
- Bianca, *susugalan ng Siyete.*

Wedding bells

- *Ibinuking ni* **Alfie Lorenzo: Juday** *at* Ryan, *magpapakasal na.*
- **Mayor Sherwin** *at* **Pauleen**, *malapit nang magpakasal.*
- **Vandolph** *at* **Jenny Hernandez** *ikakasal sa* Dec. 3!
- *Tatay ni* **Yasmien**, *payag makasal ang anak kay* **JC de Vera.**

Breakup

- **Rachel Ann Go** breaks up with **Christian Bautista.**

Sparks galore

- **Brandon Vera**, crush *si* **Ehra Madrigal.**
- **Karel Marquez**, type *ng anak nina* **Carlo Caparas** *at* **Donna Villa.**
- **Rustom** attracted *kay* **Zanjoe?**
- **Jen da Silva** *may pagnanasa kay* **Will Devaughn.**
- Sen. **Chiz Escudero**, type *ni* **Alyssa Alano.**

- Dahil *sa sex video nila ni* Will... Palmolive *at* BF *na Hapon nagkahiwalay.*

A devalued Jewel

- *"Nababastos na ang pagkatao ko."*—**Jewel Mische**
- Jewel copycat *ni* **KC Concepcion.**
- Jewel doesn't want to be compared to KC.

- **John Lloyd Cruz's** orgasm joke offends Maja Salvador's manager.
- **Sharon** not happy over revival of her old films.
- *Para sa mag-inang* **Daisy** *at* **Danita:** *"Huwag niyong gawing palabas sa* TV *ang buhay niyo."*—**Kuya Germs** *(Oo nga.)*

Wish mo lang

- Wish *ni* **Manny:** *Magkita at mag-usap sina* Ara *at* **Jinkee.**

- **Angelica**, *lagot ang* BF *mo:* **Ai Ai** *hihipuan si* **Derek** *sa* concert.
- Ai Ai afraid *hipuan si* Sam. *(Baka magdemanda?)*

Real 'gimmick queen'?

- *Si* **Criselda Volks** *pala ang* 'Gimmick Queen,' *'di si* **Snooky!**
- **Francine Prieto** *mas gugustuhin pang maghubad ulit keysa gumanap na sirena.*
- **Vic Sotto** *at* **Dina Bonnevie**, *magkakaapo na.*
- **Danica** *maselan magbuntis.*
- **Agot** no longer expects to have a baby.
- *Pagkanta-kanta, dapat tantanan ni* **Willie Revillame.**

JEWEL Mische

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CINEMA 3 SUPERBAD 11:35, 2:10, 4:45 7:20, 10:00 R-18
CINEMA 4 ONE MORE CHANCE 11:30, 2:15, 5:00 7:45, 10:30 PG-13
CINEMA 5 BEOWULF 10:45, 1:40, 4:30 7:20, 10:10 PG-13
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November 20, 2007	Angelos	8:00 PM
November 22, 2007	Body Builders	6:00 PM

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1 SUPERBAD 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05 R-18
2 BEOWULF 12:40, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:05 PG-13
3 ONE MORE CHANCE 12:40, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:10 PG-13
4 THE NANNY DIARIES 1:30, 3:55, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 G

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NANNY DIARIES G 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	ONE MORE CHANCE PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30	GAME PLAN G 12:00,2:30 ONE MORE CHANCE PG13 5:00,7:30,10:00
BEOWULF PG13 12:35,3:10,5:45 LIONS FOR LAMBS PG13 8:10,10:20	SUPER BAD R18 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	BEOWULF PG13 12:00,2:35,5:10, 7:45,10:30

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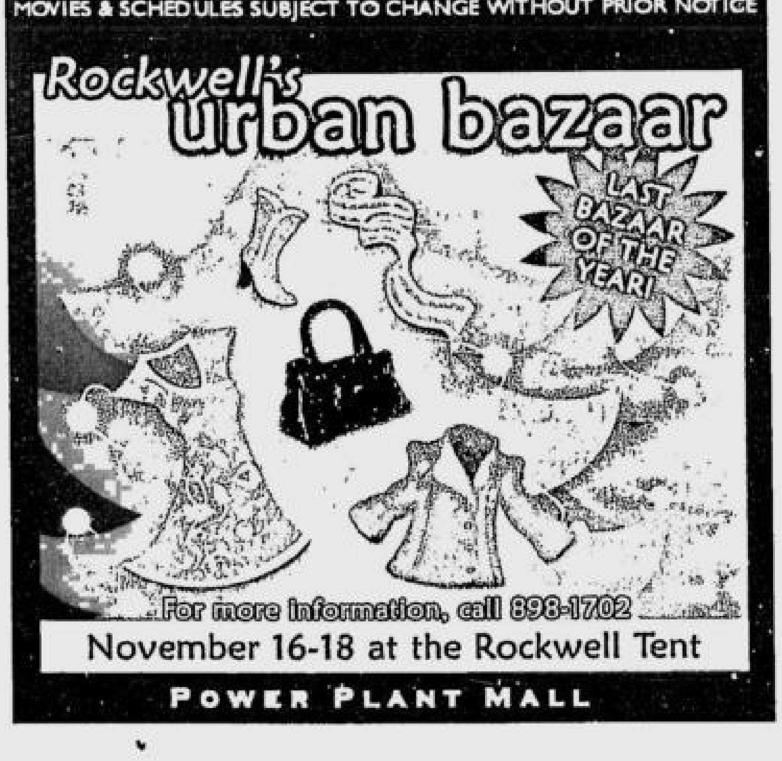

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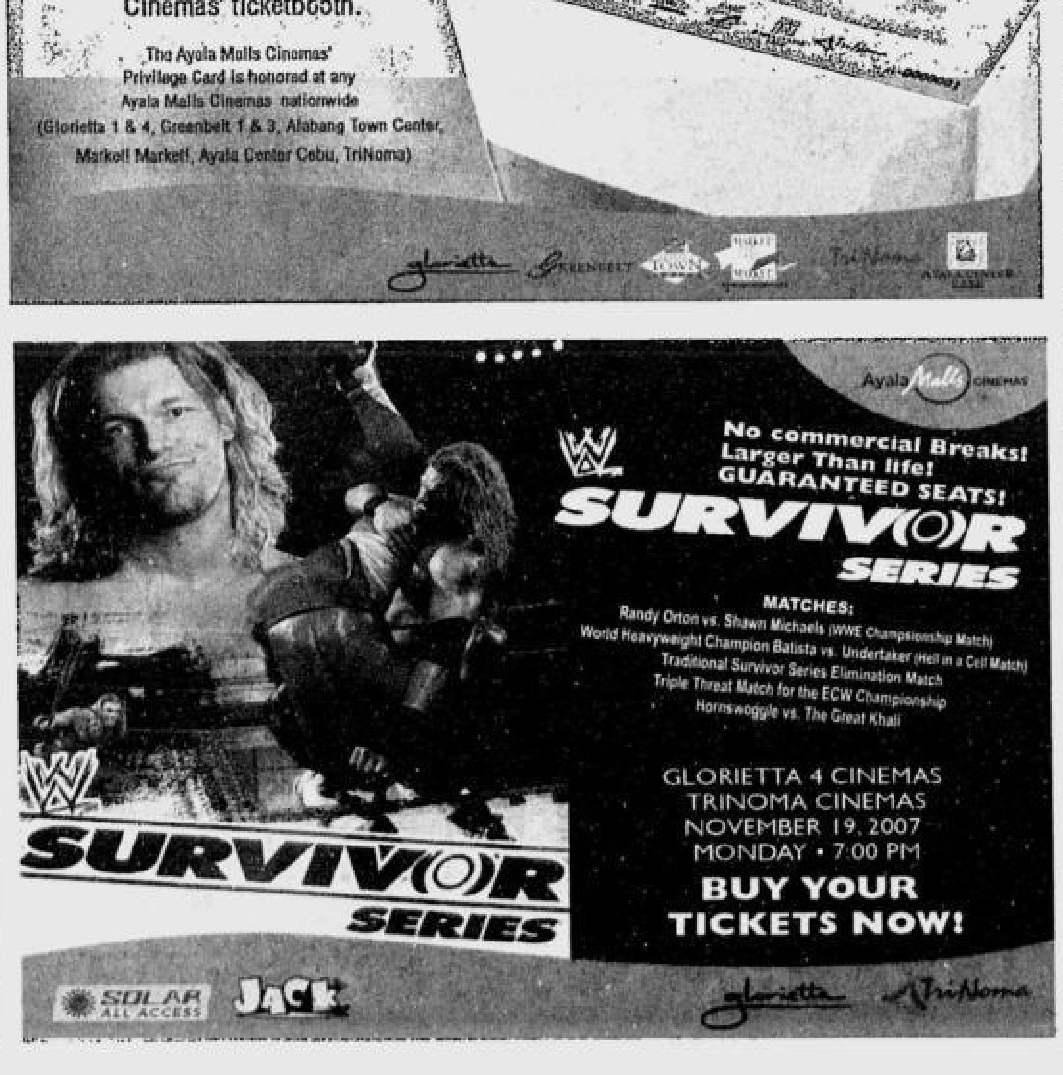

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Scoundrels and their inevitable caskets

JOEL Torre in "Ataul"

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

WATCHING "ATAUL FOR RENT" can be energy-draining, mainly because of the searing depiction of life in a squatter's area that's become a haven for hoodlums and other shady figures. It centers on Guido Alejo (Joel Torre), a petulant funeral parlor operator, whose not-so-savory demeanor reflects some of his drunkard and ill-tempered neighbors'. Directed and written by Neal Tan, the film is a dark-themed, technically sound effort that forces one to process the challenge-ridden lives of a number of the area's inhabitants separately, collectively.

Kalyehon, the "street of no return," is a neighborhood where some drug pushers, snatchers, ex-cons and prostitutes converge. But it's still a tight community, even when some of the squatters aren't shown openly interacting with each other. The police can't enter the place, afraid of getting overpowered by its more dangerous dwellers. "*Nagkakaisa sa kawalanghiyaan*," as a cop character described them. But the clock ticks on the small colony, as they're given an eviction notice.

Still, life goes on for the people, who unceasingly drink or gamble away their worries. The old *istambay* (Pen Medina) is a constant opinionated presence. A gambling mother (Irma Adlawan) squanders her breadwinner son's (Coco Martin) money, unaware that he secretly steals or whores for it. Guido's wife Pining (Jaclyn Jose), a makeup artist who beautifies the dead and the living alike, hides her bruises and tries to ignore her miseries. And the *taong grasa* (Ronnie Lazaro) is the most insightful of them all, narrating and assessing the community's activities in his head.

Unified mood

The story is a widely cast net; the number of characters allows for multiple angles, but there's a unified mood and almost every character is affected by tragedy, although through different circumstances. You just know there will be reckonings and comeuppances, and happiness and contentment will remain ever-elusive for the scoundrels.

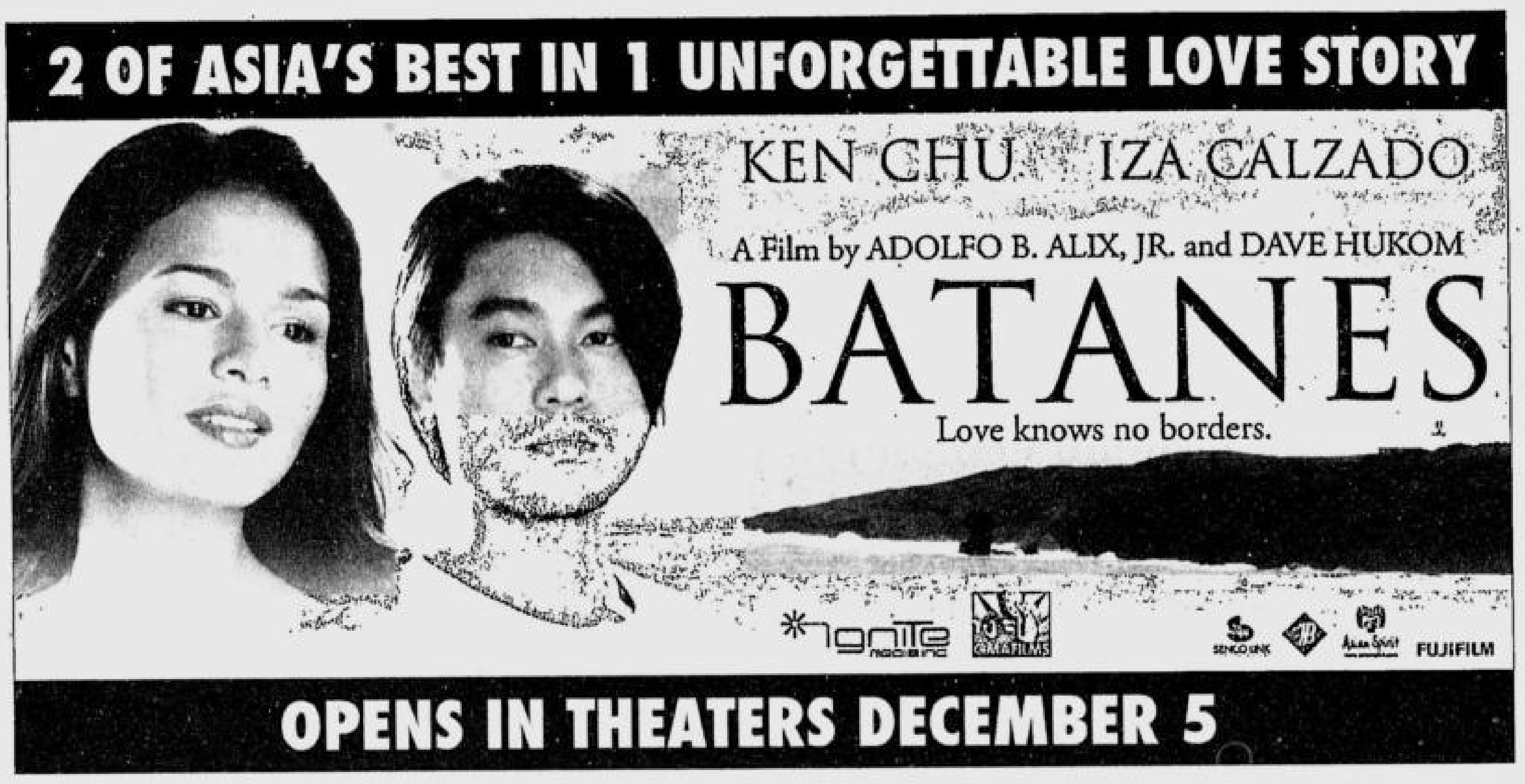
An enveloping realism is forged by the combined talents of the thespians. Torre and Jose commendably convey the pessimism and strange mutualism in that scenario.

Sublime performances

Medina hovers and manifests his character into scenes masterfully. Adlawan eventually does an amazing take on Sisa, as her character later experiences the most painful tragedy. The performances are sublime, even when the characters tend to run around in circles and there isn't much to know about them.

Illustrations of desperation are numerous, though. And there's an inescapable, easily discernable climax given the familiar premise. The story repeatedly hints at some unavoidable fates, which don't leave much for the viewer to ponder. But again, each character contributes to the bigger, sickening picture, and that's executed soundly.

"Ataul for Rent" isn't escapist. It'll make you a little sad and squeamish, and it doesn't say anything new about the subject. But it's a solid, serious film that clearly elaborates on its chosen issues.


2 OF ASIA'S BEST IN 1 UNFORGETTABLE LOVE STORY
KEN CHU IZA CALZADO
A Film by ADOLFO B. ALIX, JR. and DAVE HUKOM
BATANES
Love knows no borders.
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MTRCB RATING R-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
This film contains cold-blooded action scenes that may not be suitable for the younger audience. Viewer discretion is advised.
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HITMAN
OPENS NOVEMBER 21
WWW.HITMANMOVIE.COM

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
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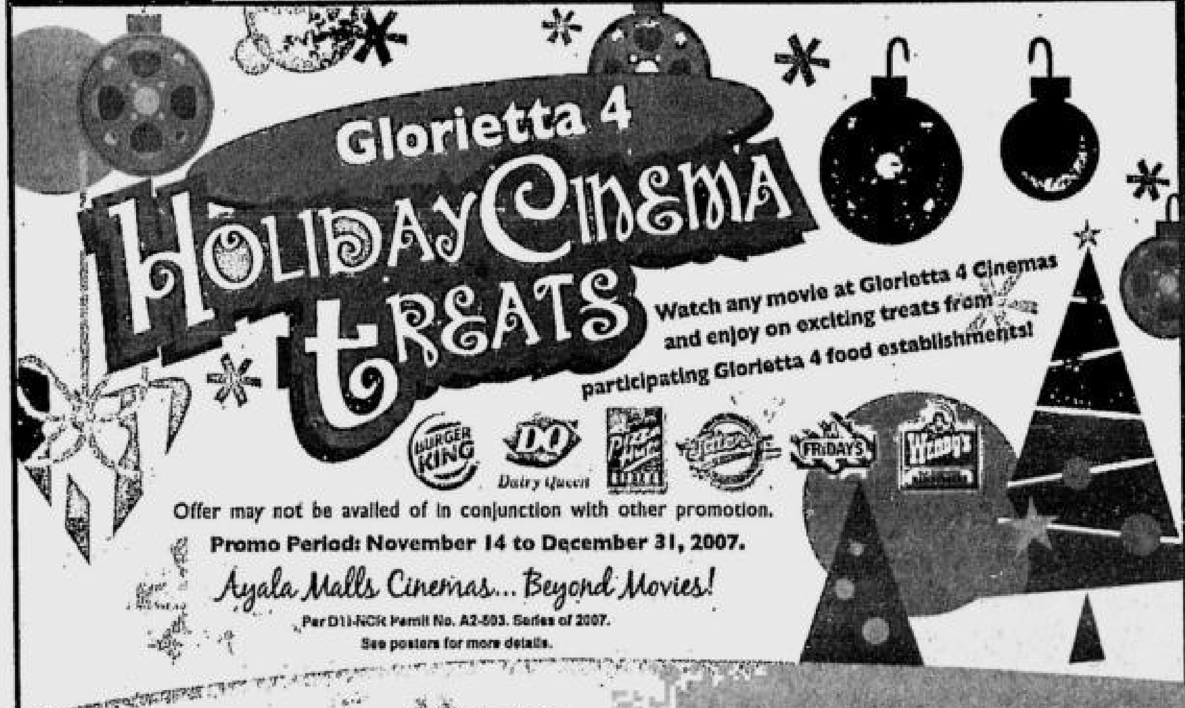
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GLORIETTA 1	BOOGEYMAN 2	BEOWULF	THE NANNY DIARIES	ONE MORE CHANCE			
GLORIETTA 4	THE NANNY DIARIES	BEOWULF	THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	THE GAME PLAN	SUPER BAD	THE GAME PLAN	BOOGEYMAN 2
GREENBELT 1	ONE MORE CHANCE	BEOWULF					
GREENBELT 3	THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS	SUPER BAD GUARANTEED SEATS	THE NANNY DIARIES GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX BEOWULF	THE NANNY DIARIES	ONE MORE CHANCE	SUPER BAD	BEOWULF		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BEOWULF	SUPER BAD	ONE MORE CHANCE	BALLS OF FURY			
MARKET! MARKET!	ONE MORE CHANCE	THE NANNY DIARIES	SUPER BAD	BEOWULF	BOOGEYMAN 2		
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	ONE MORE CHANCE	BOOGEYMAN 2	LIONS FOR LAMBS / BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	THE NANNY DIARIES GUARANTEED SEATS	THE GAME PLAN	SUPER BAD	THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	Sounds of Christmas: Christmas Chorale feat. Phil. Jesuit Community November 24; 6pm; Glorietta 4 Park
GREENBELT	Bossa Nova Christmas November 16 & 23; Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Pre-Christmas 10 to 10 Sale! November 16 to 18 and 23 to 25
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Canon Camera Exhibit November 13 to 19; Paseos
MARKET! MARKET!	Seussical The Musical November 16 to 18; 11:30am, 3pm & 6pm; Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents FIDDLER ON THE ROOF November 9 - December 16, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	2007 Shell National Students Art Exhibition - 100 Best Entries & Winners November 8 to 18, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Kyla with Tiples De Sto. Domingo November 17; 7pm; TriNoma Park Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks December 9; 6pm; Activity Center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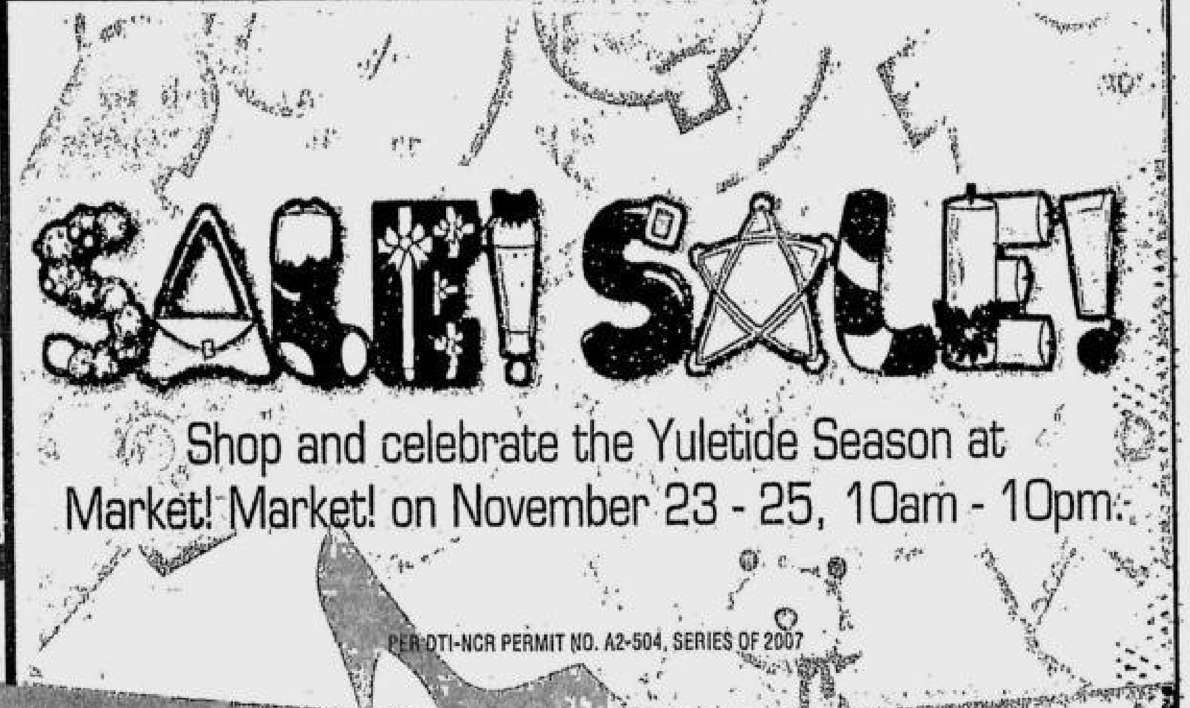
Ayala Malls Cinemas... Beyond Movies!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-503. Series of 2007.
See posters for more details.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Shop and celebrate the Yuletide Season at Market! Market! on November 23 - 25, 10am - 10pm.
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A2-504, SERIES OF 2007
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

GMA

Mga Kapuso, muli po kaming nagpapasalamat

dahil sa inyong patuloy na pagtangkilik, lalong lumalaki ang gap natin sa ratings.

OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS

Combined areas of Metro Cebu, Metro Davao & Iloilo City and Mega Manila
TOTAL DAY (6am - 12mn) TV Households

AGB Nielsen MEGATAM & MCTAM	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
GMA	17.2	17.0	18.1
ABS-CBN	17.2	15.1	15.8
DIFF (GMA-ABS)	0	↑ 1.8	↑ 2.3

Combined ratings and shares for the 4 areas have been generated using weights according to TV population size sourced from AGB Nielsen.

Maging sa buong Luzon, kung saan nagmumula ang 76% ng total TV audience ng Pilipinas, nangunguna po tayo!

OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS

TOTAL LUZON Households TOTAL DAY (6am - 12mn)

AGB Nielsen NUTAM	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
GMA	17.1	16.9	17.8
ABS-CBN	18.3	16.1	16.6
DIFF (GMA-ABS)	(1.2)	↑ 0.8	↑ 1.2

At patuloy pa rin po ang ating pangunguna sa Mega Manila!

OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS

MEGA MANILA Households TOTAL DAY (6am - 12mn)

AGB Nielsen MEGATAM	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
GMA	18.6	18.2	19.2
ABS-CBN	15.8	13.7	14.2
DIFF (GMA-ABS)	2.8	↑ 4.5	↑ 5.0

OVERALL TOP 15 PROGRAMS ARE ON GMA*

MEGAMANILA TV Households October 2007

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL	RATING %
1	SMB SPORTS WILL TO WIN PACQUIAO VS BARRERA II	GMA	49.5
2	MARIMAR	GMA	40.8
3	MGA MATA NI ANGHELITA	GMA	34.4
4	ZAIDO PULIS PANGKALAWAKAN	GMA	34.1
5	24 ORAS	GMA	31.7
6	BITOY'S FUNNIEST VIDEOS YARI KA!	GMA	31.4
7	KAKASA KA BA SA GRADE 5?	GMA	30.6
8	LA VENDETTA	GMA	30.4
9	KAPUSO MO, JESSICA SOHO	GMA	29.8
10	TOK! TOK! TOK! ISANG MILYON PASOK	GMA	29.7
11	KAP'S AMAZING STORIES	GMA	29.1
12	CELEBRITY DUETS FINALS NIGHT	GMA	27.5
13	JUMONG	GMA	26.8
14	CELEBRITY DUETS	GMA	26.5
15	HWANG JINI	GMA	26.4

* AGB NIELSEN MEDIA RESEARCH PHILS. (MEGATAM ARIANNA) including specials

Ang tiwalang tulad nito ang aming inspirasyon sa paghahatid ng mga programang tiyak ninyong aabangan, kagigiliwan at susubaybayan.

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9:00pm	9:30pm	9:00pm
10:00pm	10:30pm	10:00pm
11:00pm	11:30pm	11:00pm

sparks of passion
Christmas Light and Music Festival
Nov. 10 to Dec. 30

Bonifacio

Love in the prime of Shakira

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—EVEN Nobel Prize-winning novelist **Gabriel Garcia Marquez** goes to watch **Shakira** whenever she performs in Mexico, where the celebrated author lives most of the time.

Garcia Marquez and Shakira are good friends as well. In a recent press con with Shakira, it was easy to see why one of the greatest writers of this age is close to the pop singer. Shakira appeared shy but her replies are eloquent.

The two famous Colombians are involved in the film "Love in the Time of Cholera." Garcia Marquez wrote the acclaimed romantic fable upon which the film is based. Upon his request, Shakira contributed three soulful songs to the film's soundtrack.

Mike Newell, who directed "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," wanted Shakira to act in "Love in the Time of Cholera" as well but she was busy then with her "Oral Fixation Tour" (which will be released on DVD next month).

Shakira revealed her passionate nature in the following excerpts, especially when she revealed how she behaved upon seeing **Antonio de la Rua** (now her fiancé) for the first time.

How has love played a role in your life and in your career?

Love plays the main role in the movie of my life (laughter). It's the absolute protagonist. It's the engine of every single step I take in my life. It's what feeds and nurtures me, In my list of priorities, love is number one.

My fans might not like to hear this but love is even above music which is my biggest passion and what keeps me alive. I don't only refer to the love of a couple which is obviously the most exciting one (laughter) but to love in general — the love of my family and friends. Love has to be in the air. Otherwise, I choke (laughter).

How much did you relate to the passion in this film's story?

What's so powerful about this movie is that in this time of immediate gratification, in a time when we want everything now, when we are not willing to wait not even for the bus (laughter), life goes so fast, at such speed that what this movie provokes in all of us — or at least I like to speak for myself — is this sentiment of longing and yearning for a time when people loved in a different way, when there is not so much rush.

Do you believe in soul mates?

I believe in working really hard in a relationship if you want to maintain it, if you want it to succeed. Love is an entity that is alive. It's an organism that needs to be fed. Otherwise, it dies. Love is one of the mysteries. I've experienced what people call love at first sight. When I first met Antonio, I looked and stared at him the entire night — something I don't do very often because, believe me, I'm kind of shy. But that night, I found him across a restaurant. I looked at him and said, "Oh my God, this could be the man of my life." I really felt that in my heart and so far, so good (laughter). But you have to keep working on it, you know.

If you were offered an acting part in this movie, would you have accepted it?

The first time that director Mike Newell approached me was with the intention of also having me as an actress in this movie. I would have loved to do that especially because I am sure I would have been in the hands of one of the best directors. But I was on the road. I was doing my "Oral Fixation" tour and it was completely impossible for me to take any kind of job outside of the touring world.

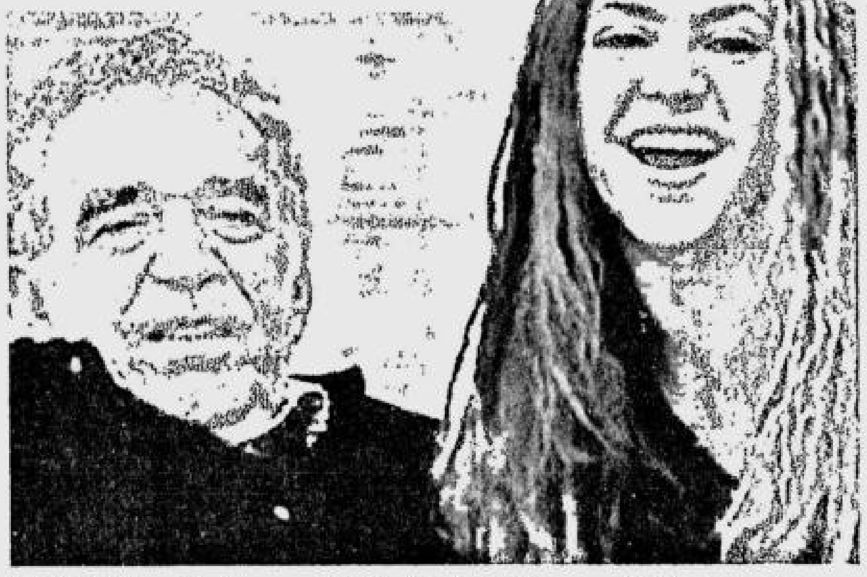
But I do want to become an actress eventually. Maybe if the right project, director and script come along, and if I'm going to be protected from all those angles, and to guarantee that I won't disappoint my fans (laughter), I would probably do it. I have been receiving offers at different moments in my life, but I haven't been able to accept any of them because I have been very busy with music which absorbs 100 percent of my time.

Are you a film buff?

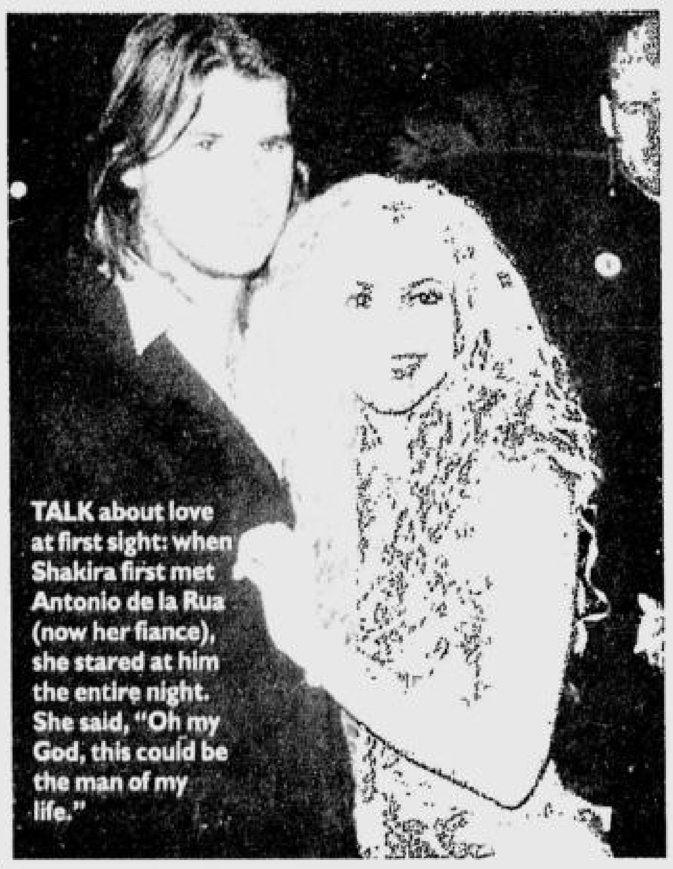
I enjoy the movies but I must confess that I like comedies. I like to laugh because life is so dramatic already. What I like about this movie is that the sense of humor of Garcia Marquez is all over it. You are moved to tears, especially in the scene of the reunion of the lovers after half a century of patience. The scene touched me but you also laugh through it because that's the world of Garcia Marquez. Amid the special cadence, rhythm and metaphors, there is also a very quirky sense of humor. He likes to play with our minds (laughter).

You started performing

LOVE/ K3



NOBEL Prize-winning novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez (left) watches his friend, Shakira, whenever she performs in Mexico, where he lives.



TALK about love at first sight: when Shakira first met Antonio de la Rua (now her fiance), she stared at him the entire night. She said, "Oh my God, this could be the man of my life."

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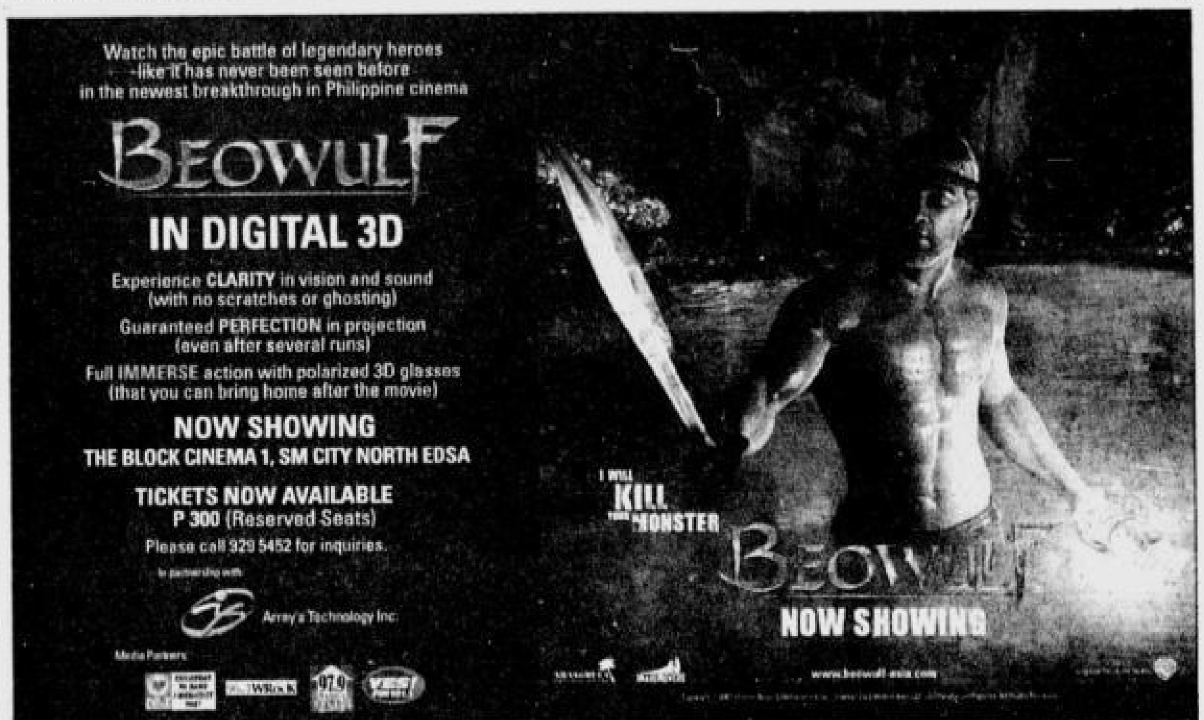

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SCREENING TIME	November 16 (Friday)	November 17 (Saturday)	November 18 (Sunday)	November 19 (Monday)	November 20 (Tuesday)	November 21 (Wednesday)	November 22 (Thursday)
10:30 A.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
1:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
4:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
7:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
10:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Note: Screening schedule and seat availability subject to change without prior notice.

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104

IMAX

BEOWULF 3D Admission Price: P400
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11:00 AM • 5:30 PM

1 BEOWULF.
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 THE GAME PLAN/ CARTOON NETWORK
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 THE NANNY DIARIES
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

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7 BEOWULF
8 ONE MORE CHANCE
9 RESERVED
10 BOOGEYMAN 2
11 ONE MORE CHANCE
12 LION FOR LAMBS/ CARTOON NETWORK

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1 BEOWULF
30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 THE GAME PLAN
6 BEOWULF
HIDE & SEEK/ CARTOON NETWORK
8 BOOGEYMAN 2
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 ONE MORE CHANCE
11 THE NANNY DIARIES
12 LION FOR LAMBS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

THE NANNY DIARIES
ONE MORE CHANCE
THE GHOST SON
HIDE & SEEK
THE GAME PLAN
BOOGEYMAN 2
BEOWULF
8 ONE MORE CHANCE
30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 WE OWN THE NIGHT
11 THE NANNY DIARIES
12 CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

BEOWULF
ONE MORE CHANCE
THE NANNY DIARIES
THE GAME PLAN

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THE GAME PLAN
4 THE NANNY DIARIES/ CARTOON NETWORK
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

BOOGEYMAN 2
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
THE NANNY DIARIES

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 THE NANNY DIARIES
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 WE OWN THE NIGHT
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 LIONS FOR LAMBS/ CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 BEOWULF
2 THE NANNY DIARIES
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 THE GAME PLAN
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 HIDE & SEEK
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 BALLS OF FURY/ CARTOON NETWORK
9 LIONS FOR LAMBS
10 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

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1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

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BEOWULF
THE GAME PLAN
THE NANNY DIARIES
ONE MORE CHANCE
WE OWN THE NIGHT
6 RESERVED
BOOGEYMAN 2
8 HIDE & SEEK
30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 GHOST SON/ CARTOON NETWORK
11 BALLS OF FURY
ONE MORE CHANCE

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THE GAME PLAN
2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

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NOVEMBER 17 - 18
Cartoon Network :
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LUZON

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1 THE NANNY DIARIES
2 BOOGEYMAN 2
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF
6 ONE MORE CHANCE
7 HIDE & SEEK
8 UNREST

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

THE GAME PLAN
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HIDE AND SEEK/ ONE MORE CHANCE
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 UNREST

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 BEOWULF
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

NOW OPEN
SM CITY TAYTAY 286-2502 to 04

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 THE GAME PLAN

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 HALLOWEEN

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637081-85

1 BEOWULF
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 HIDE & SEEK/ CARTOON NETWORK
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340811

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 MR. WOODCOCK
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3/ KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3/ ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 BEOWULF
2 HIDE & SEEK/ CARTOON NETWORK
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BALLS OF FURY
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

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3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 STARDUST
5 CARTOON NETWORK/ ONE MORE CHANCE
6 WE OWN THE NIGHT/ HAIRSPRAY

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3/ ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 BALLS OF FURY
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 RENDITION
5 BEOWULF
6 HIGHLANDER V
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 STARDUST
2 BEOWULF
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 BALLS OF FURY
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 HIGHLANDER V/ CARTOON NETWORK
7 ONE MORE CHANCE
8 BEOWULF

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 UNREST
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING/ ONE MORE CHANCE

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

DID YOU KNOW...

LONDON—THE ROLE OF LAVENDER Brown, Ron Weasley's girlfriend in the new Harry Potter film, has gone to an established actress, according to a source close to the film. Around 7,000 hopefuls auditioned in July for the role of Brown, who spends much time kissing fellow Hogwarts pupil Weasley in "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince." The casting ad had stated no acting experience was necessary. But the part went to 20-year-old Jessie Cave, who has appeared with Helen Mirren in the film "Inkheart" and who is to star in the BBC's CBBC drama "Summerhill," which goes out early next year. *Reuters*

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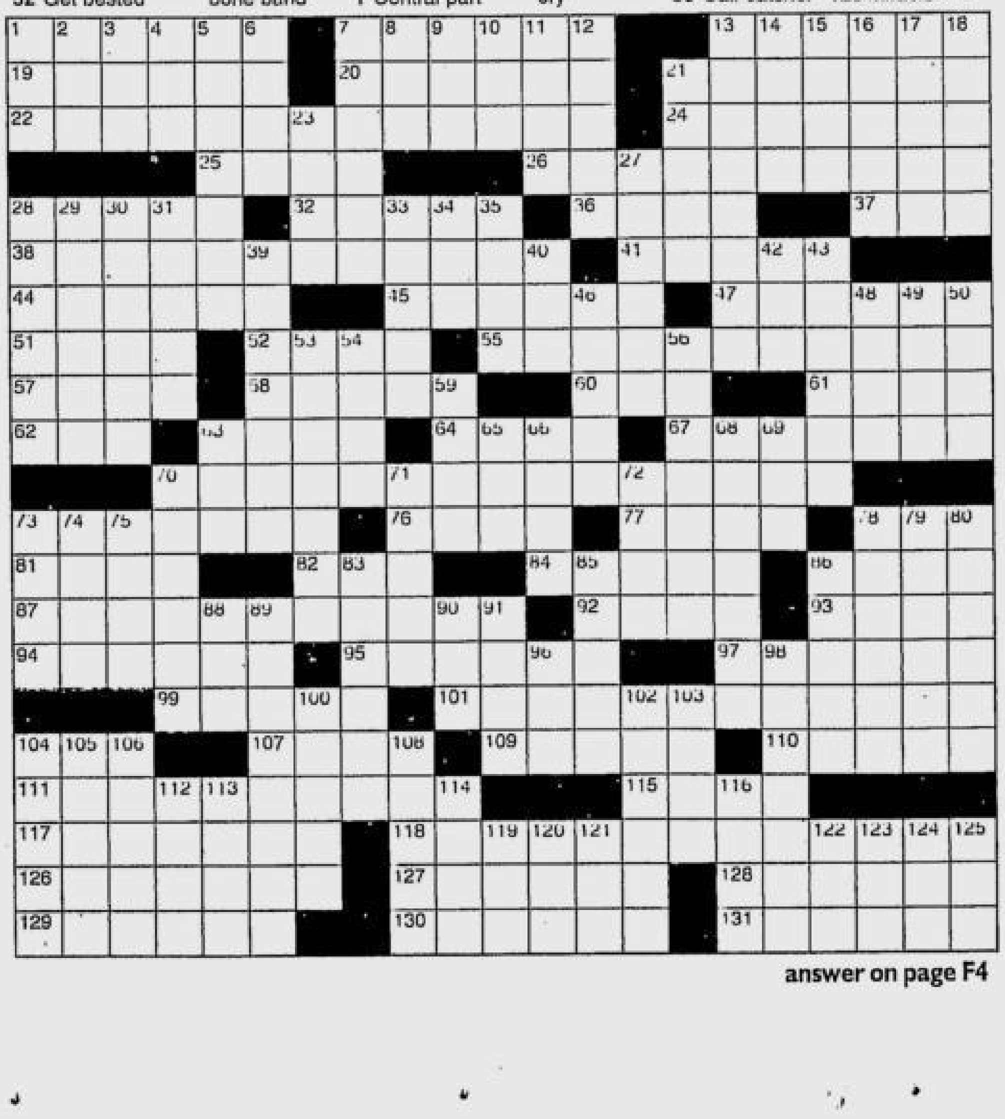
VIVA

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — BUSINESS

ACROSS
1 Arizona Indian
7 Stick
13 Venomous African snakes
19 Perfect accord
20 Of axons and dendrites
21 Seat of New York's Nassau County
22 Behind-the-scenes fish on Broadway?
24 Snubbing sort
25 Vagabond
26 Park fixture for a fish?
28 Film genre
32 Streamlet
36 Bench, e.g.
37 Recognize
38 Fish driving during rush hour?
41 "Virtue — own reward"
44 Italian cheese
45 Taken a spill
47 Ancient Romans
51 Big brawl
52 Get bested
55 Fish from Ankara?
57 Colonizing insects
58 British cellist Jacqueline
60 Suffix with panel
61 "Only Time" singer
62 Wanna- — (mere copycats)
63 Unit of RAM
64 "Hold on —!"
67 "Piece of cake!"
70 A heroic fish and a villainous fish?
73 Living room, in London
76 Bacon serving
77 Creole veggie
78 Actor Knotts
81 Feng —
82 Yodeling peak
84 More foxy
86 Office note
87 Cause of fish indigestion?
92 Person opposed
93 Declare definitively
94 Muscle-to-bone band
95 Conductors' sticks
97 Chaperon
99 Freud follower Alfred
101 Facts about a fish?
104 Pro- — (tournament types)
107 "Beware the — of March!"
109 Open — (create an opportunity)
110 Fraternity letters
111 Fish declares?
115 Raleigh loc.
117 One learning a trade
118 Fish in the Capitol?
126 Being judged in court
127 Speechifies
128 Paul of "Mad About You"
129 Mail out again
130 Inventor's protection
131 Start of a cry from Juliet

DOWN
1 Central part
2 Santa —, California
3 Singer Damone
4 Invite
5 Kidding
6 "I'm — you!"
7 Silky cat
8 Actress Sandra
9 Core
10 Notable time period
11 Rub roughly
12 Somebody — problem
13 Very much
14 Landers and Sothern
15 Copy a kitty
16 Netman Becker
17 Coeur d'—, Idaho
18 NCO nickname
21 Flaky minerals
23 Truncated wd.
27 Puts one's signature on again
28 Iconic beetle
29 Trig function
30 Numskulls
31 Italian cars
33 Bid
34 One — kind
35 Scot's skirt
39 Gloating cry
40 Actor Gulager
42 Tit for —
43 Meryl of movies
46 Writer Jong
48 Hebrides island
49 Van —, California
50 Hang around
53 Be quicker than in a gunfight
54 Blueprint detail, briefly
56 Online airline reservation
59 He's a noble
63 "No fair!"
65 Whirlpool bath
66 Declines
68 Lingered
69 Span. Mrs.
70 Oz's good witch
71 Org. with stray pets
72 Wear out
73 Exam for jrs.
74 "Alas!"
75 Totally botch
78 Pious
79 Code of silence
80 Bridge positions
83 — Tar Pits
85 Calf catcher
86 PC user's shortcut
88 Signal "OK"
89 Oft-intrusive Web pop-up
90 Cousin on "The Addams Family"
91 Capital of Qatar
96 Beatty of "Superman"
98 Swizzle stick
100 1950s Ford
102 Truthful
103 Foot feature
104 Famed furrier
105 Seine feeder
106 Crate parts
108 Managing techie
112 Swampland
113 "Come —" ("Enter")
114 Doris Day song title word
116 Dynamic prefix
119 Rebellious Turner
120 Gorged on
121 Bill in a till
122 "Blame It on —"
123 "-ology" kin
124 Born, in Nice
125 Miracle- —



answer on page F4

Time is running out

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FINALLY, AFTER A RATHER EXTENSIVE search all over town, we finally caught "The 11th Hour" at SM Centerpoint last Nov. 7. We appreciated the full-length documentary's earnest efforts to warn viewers about the planet's grievous environmental crisis, but sadly noted that there were fewer than 10 people inside the movie house.

Clearly, if the film wants to create a groundswell of support for environmental initiatives, it isn't connecting with enough viewers here.

As we watched the docu presented by **Leonardo DiCaprio**, we tried to figure out the reasons for this sad disconnect. At the end of the long screening, we had some answers:

Turnoff

A big turnoff was the movie's "talking heads" format. The production won our admiration by securing the participation of an impressive roster of experts, but their views were edited together in a perfunctory manner, and this resulted in those views ending up as a blur as far as viewers' comprehension was concerned.

Another drawback was the production's eclectic approach to the problems and causative factors it chose to include in its purview. There were so many aspects of the environmental crisis that were touched on that it was a challenge to get an organized handle on them.

We also noted that, in terms of production, the film tended to use existing footage, instead of originating much of its visual support material.

Finally, DiCaprio's work as "presentor" of the documentary didn't make a major impact, because he was onscreen for only a relatively short time.

Despite these lapses, however, we strove hard to keep track of the movie's main points, because the current environmental crisis deserves our fullest attention and concern. Some of those key points were:

Before the Industrial Revolution, the relationship between nature and mankind was relatively balanced, so pollution was minimal. After oil, coal and gas became the major energy sources used to power the engines of progress, however, that all-important balance was thrown out of whack.

Other negative factors included the decimation of virgin forests, increasing population figures, urban congestion, wasteful use of resources, excessive emphasis on materialism and consumerism, diminished respect for nature, and lack of concern for the welfare of succeeding generations.

All of these negative elements have conspired to push our planet to the brink of disaster, a crisis scenario that needs to be addressed now, instead of 20 years from now, when the problem may have become too enormous to solve.

We thank the makers of "The 11th Hour" for these key insights. But we must observe that a similar production which was screened earlier this year, **Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth,"** was able to score its own environmental points more clearly and persuasively.

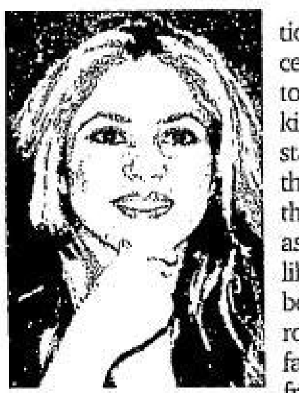
This must have been because that earlier production started out as a carefully visualized lecture that Gore took from campus to campus, before he decided to turn it into a documentary. Consequently, he had more time to "test" his material on different audiences on point of clarity and empathetic effect.

It's too bad that "The 11th Hour" isn't as clean and persuasive, but we still need to watch it, because it provides some thematic connections that weren't in Gore's production. Watch and learn from both documentaries, why not? The problem they deal with is too important and complex to be encompassed by only one point of view.

Love in the...

From page K1

when you were a little girl. How were you able to maintain your focus, especially in the entertainment world which is full of temptations?



SHY but eloquent

The education that I received has a lot to do with the kind of values I stand for and the principles that formed me as a person. I like to continue being surrounded by family and friends who are with me not because of who I represent, but for who and what I am. It's very important to choose your relationships, who you hang out with and I'm very selective about that.

I think I've chosen a good man as well. He's great — he's my rock. He's this amazing human being I lean on every second of the day. I've been fortunate to have parents who supported me from the beginning and believed in me. They taught me certain values that I appreciate now that I'm 35. I can actually use those values to build and protect myself.

As a Colombian, how excited are you about this movie?

It has been an absolute honor for me to be part of a movie that captures the very essence of my country — the Colombia of Garcia Marquez, the Colombia of beauty, contrast and poetry, that nurtured me like a mother, the Colombia that I profoundly love and that I want the world to see and to really get to know. So it is a pleasure and very refreshing to be part of the production of a movie based on a masterpiece of one of the most extraordinary writers in history. I had to accept and participate in the creation of the music for this movie. I think Colombians are going to really appreciate the way our country was captured in the movie.

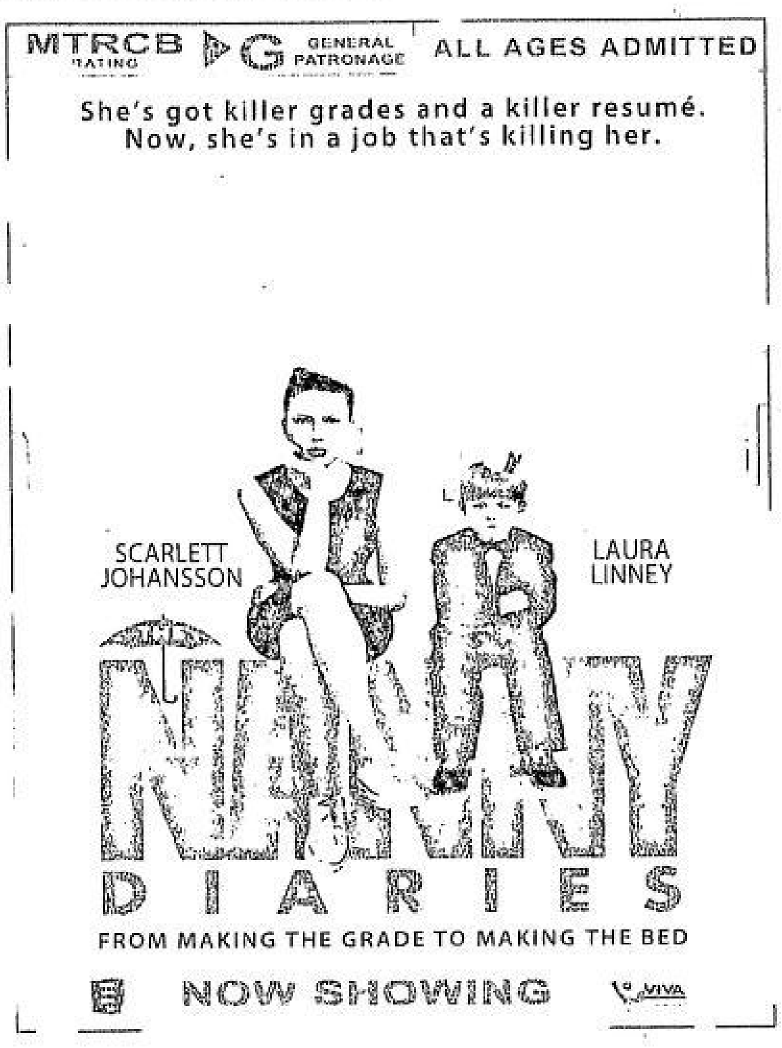
How did you meet Gabriel Garcia Marquez and how did your friendship grow?

I met Garcia Marquez about 10 years ago. He wanted to interview me for one of the magazines where he used to write. We spent all afternoon talking. A couple of weeks later, he wrote an article about me. Since then, we became friends. We try to stay in touch. Whenever I perform in Mexico, where he lives most of the time, we try to spend some time together. He went to each one of my performances in Mexico in the past years. We talk on the phone. He's a lovely person — a very warm human being with a great sense of humor.

Do you remember how much your first paycheck was and how did you spend it?

I don't remember how much I got the first time I earned any money. I started really early. When I was 10 years old, I de-

LOVE/ K4



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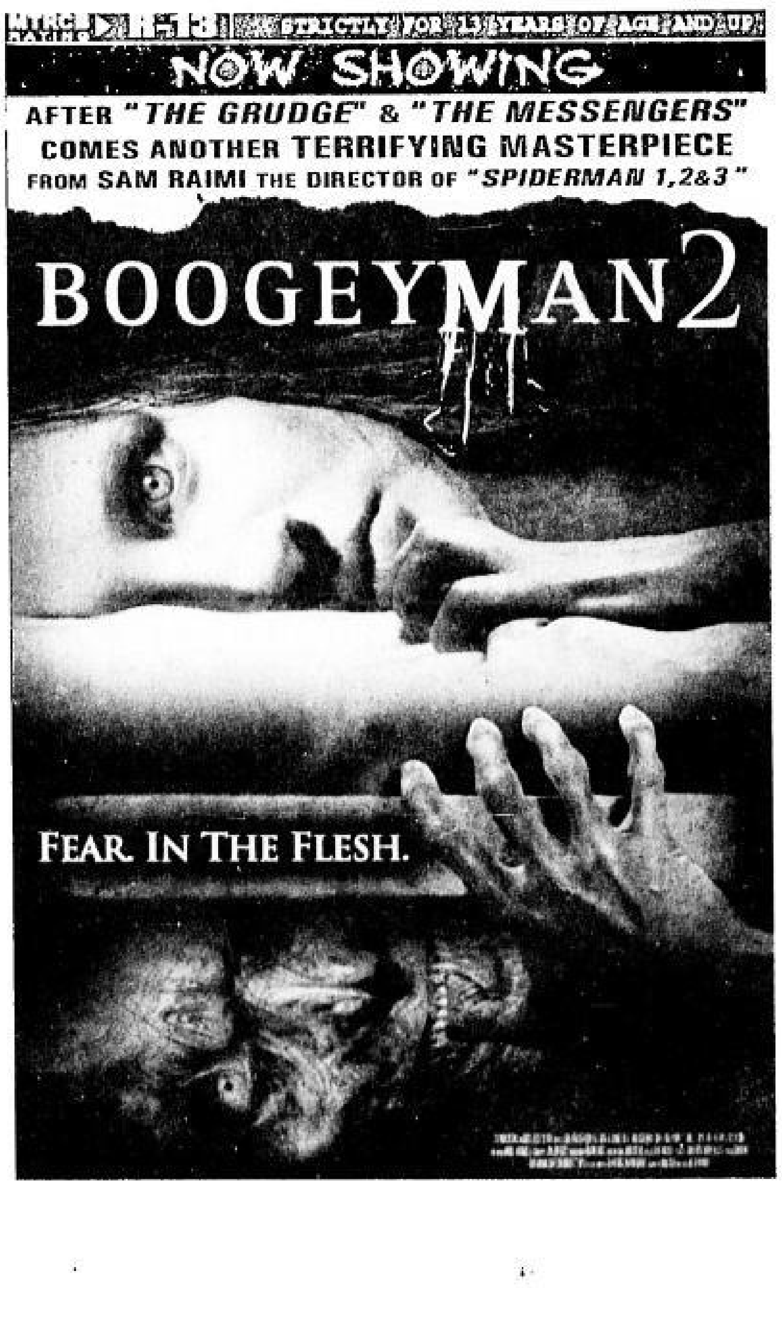

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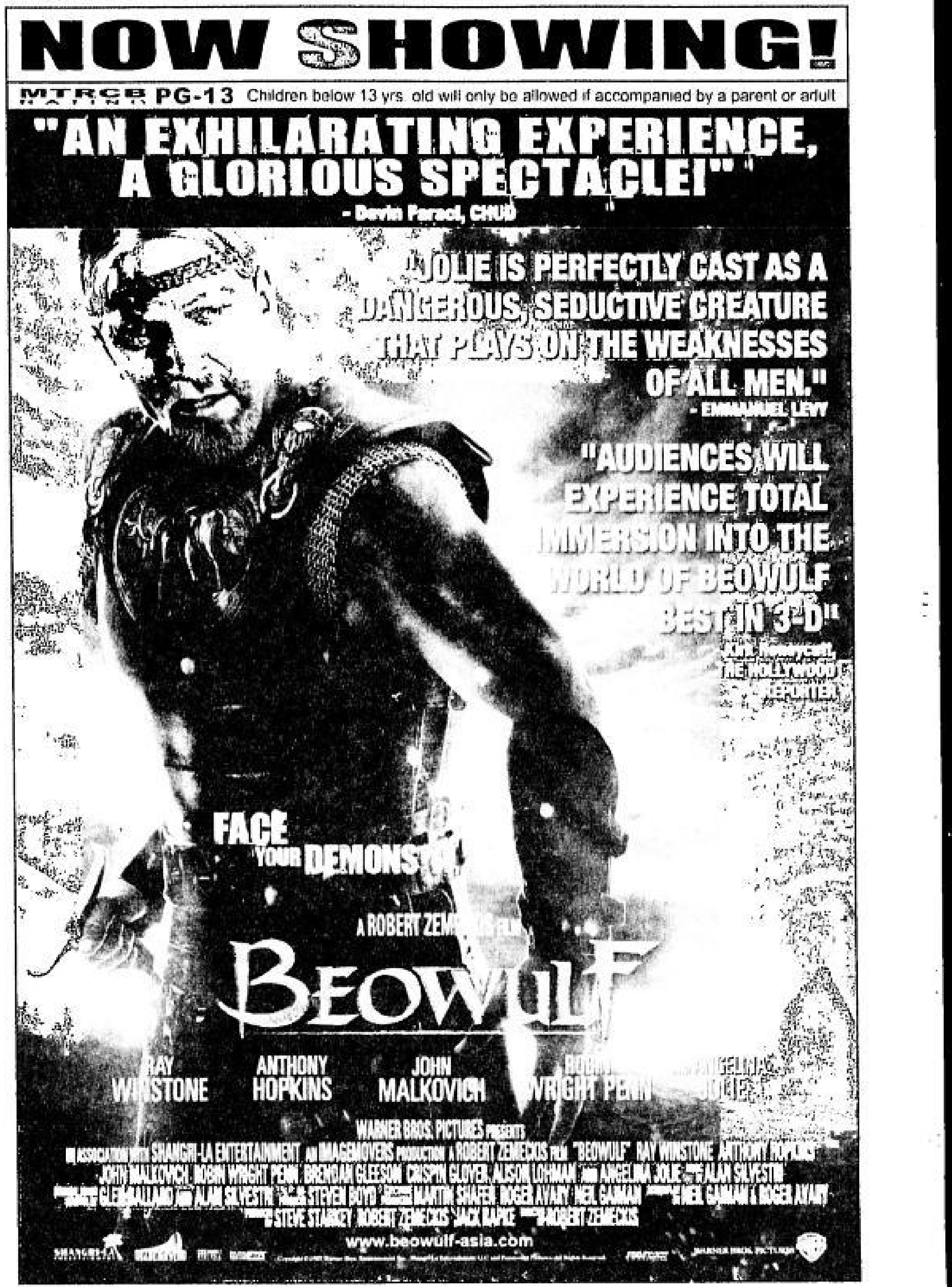

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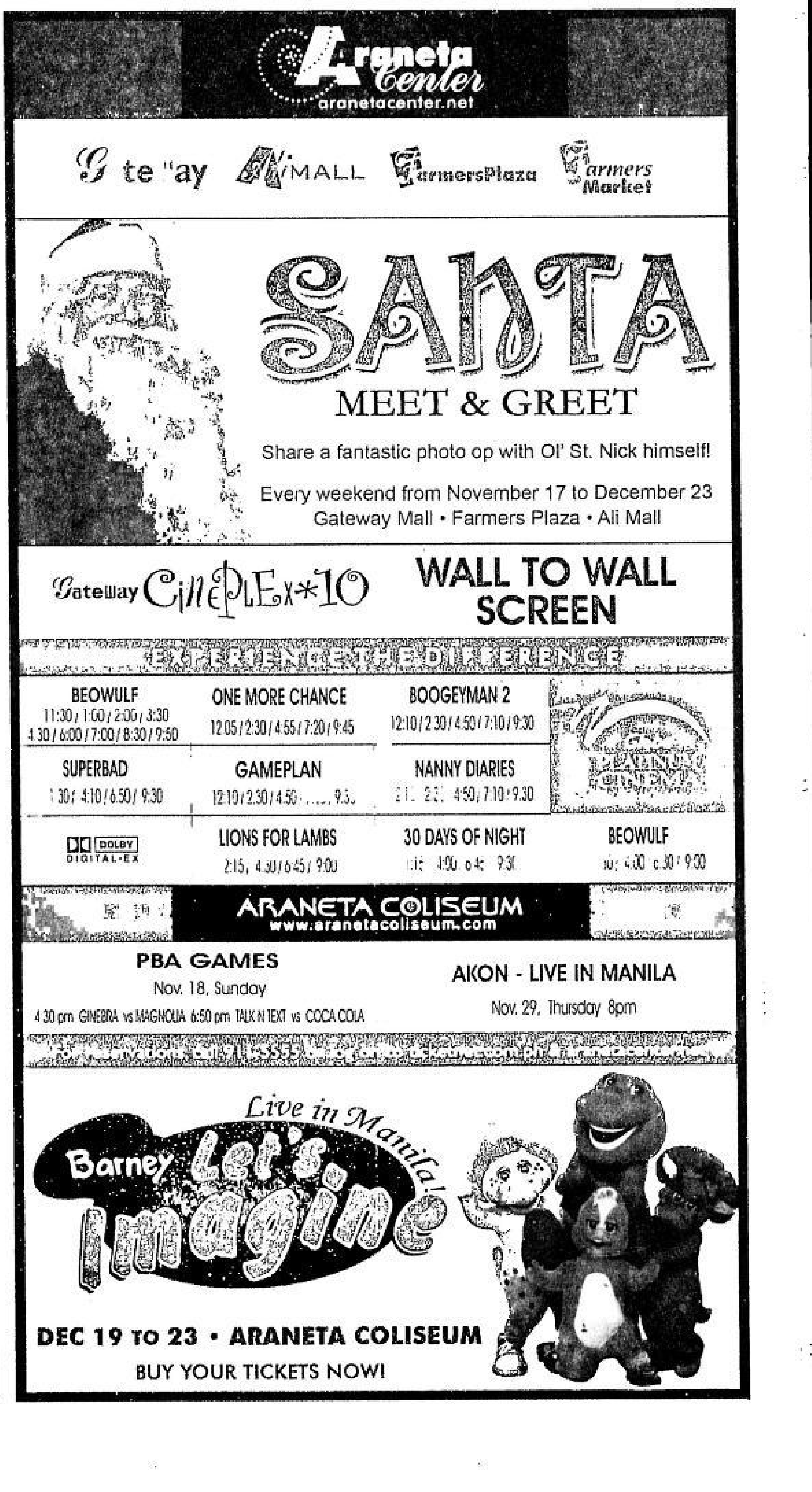

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SUPERBAD	GAMEPLAN	NANNY DIARIES
1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30	12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / [illegible] / 9:30	[illegible] / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
LIONS FOR LAMBS	30 DAYS OF NIGHT	BEOWULF
2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00	[illegible] 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30	[illegible] / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

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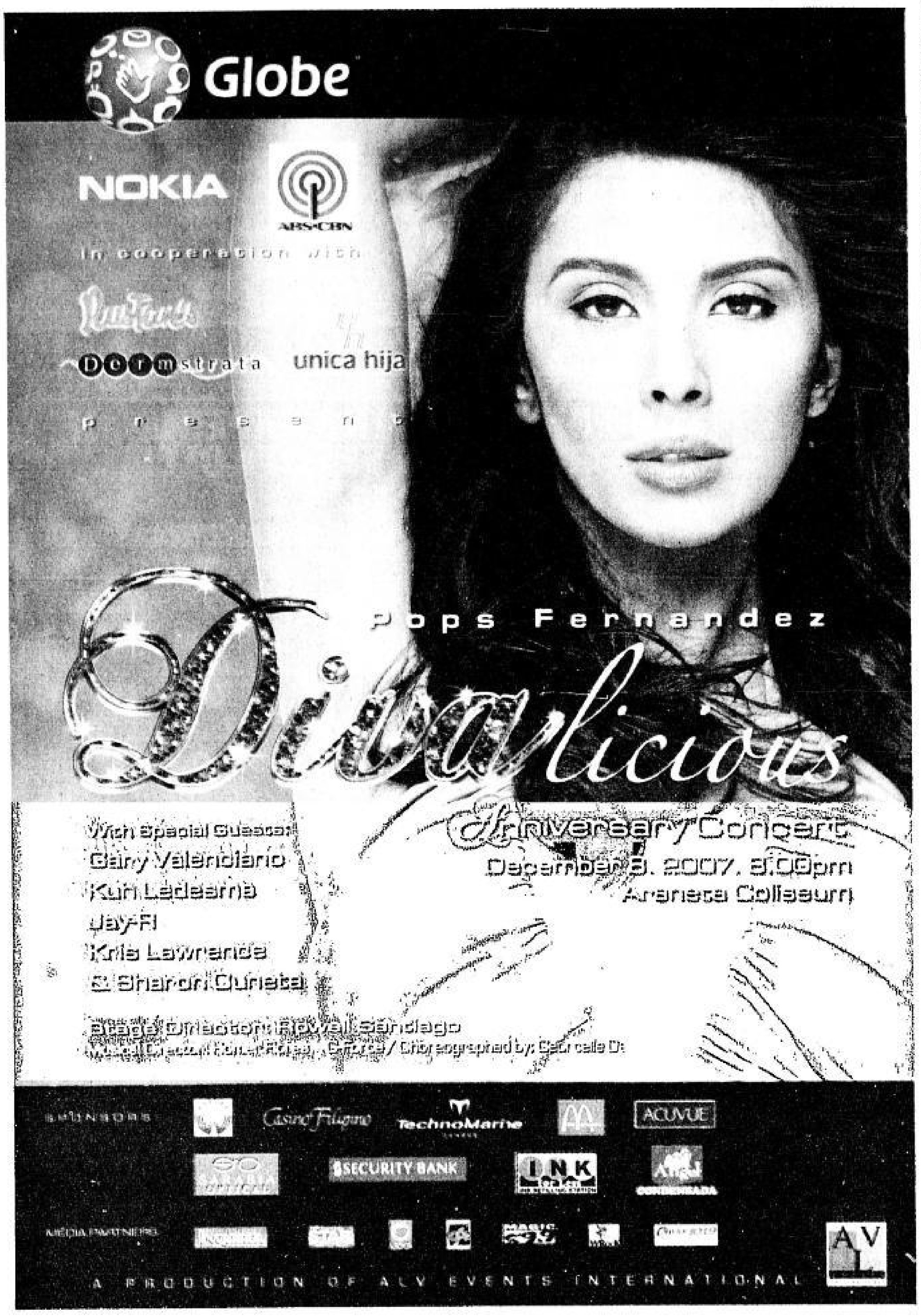
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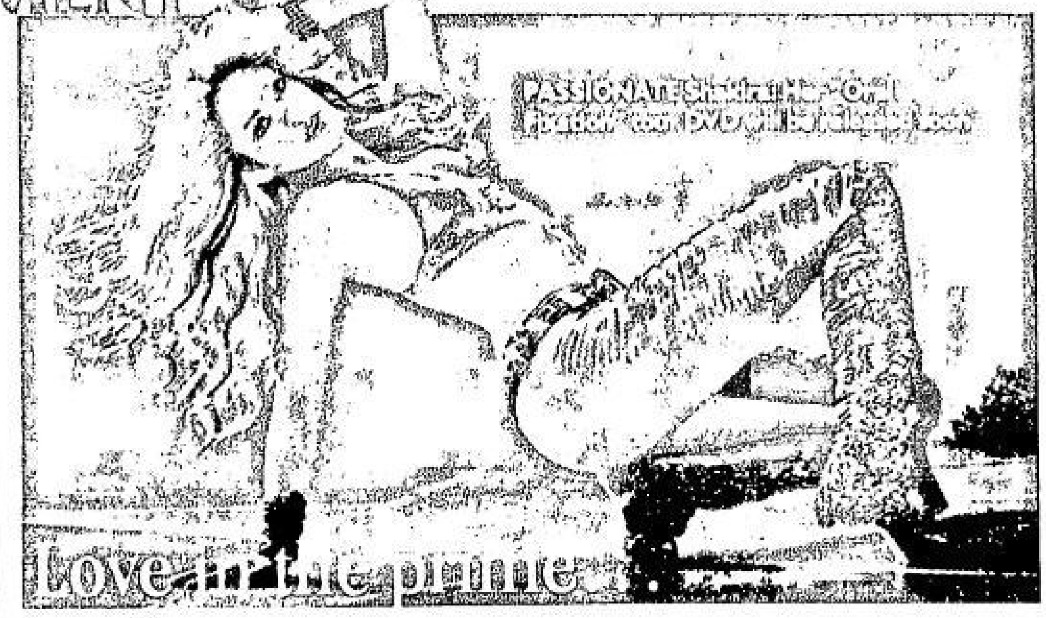
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Love in the prime

From page K3

cided I wanted to be a professional singer. I had already written like 30 original songs. I started performing in certain cities on the Caribbean coast of my country. I started charging for that. My dad was sort of my manager but the money went straight to my bank account. It was a great feeling when I was 15 years old and I bought my first car. I remember I had a fake license (laughter) because I wasn't allowed to drive until I was 16. It was the greatest feeling of all. It was an Oldsmobile '76. It was one year older than me (laughter). It was huge. Bright blue. It was one of the most thrilling moments of my adolescence to be able to buy my own car and go to school with my own car.

How do you reflect your mixed heritage in your music?

Through my music, there's a clear reflection of my mixed cultural heritage and baggage. I am half-Lebanese. I am also Spanish and a little bit of Italian as well. I was born and raised in Colombia. So having all these influences in my life shaped not only my spirits and who I am as a person, but also what I am as a musician. It's probably what triggers my curiosity as a producer when I'm working in the recording studio and as a songwriter. I am always so curious about combining different elements that come from different regions of the world.

Can you talk about your philanthropy work? Are you also involved in an environmental cause?

We should all be concerned about the environment but there are also so many other issues that need immediate attention. Half of the world's population live on an income of one dollar a day. Sixty million kids are outside of any kind of school program so I have taken very seriously my commitment with education and children, promoting education around the world, especially in developing countries like mine where my foundation, Pies Descalzos (Bare Feet), has worked over the past years, building schools and also providing a nutrition program. We believe that school lunches are very important as an incentive for the parents to send their kids to school.

I am also involved in ALAS (America Latina en Accion Solidaria), a non-profit organization based in Latin America designed to help most of the children who live in vulnerable areas in our countries throughout the region. We nurture kids from babies to five-year-olds and support mothers to help them through pregnancy.

Do you think you missed a lot in your rush to do so much at such an early age?

These past few months, I had the need to stop for a period of time from music. I took a break from everything that I have been doing nonstop for the past 15 years. I went back to school, to the university which was one of the things that I always wanted to do. I am trying to make up for the things I have missed all these years.

I've had a very happy childhood. I've had a complete life, I think. But I took a few months off and this is what I call my sabbatical (laughter). I went to the university and studied history of the western civilization which is one of my hidden passions. I guess it's not hidden anymore. I am trying to hang out with friends and do things I don't get to do usually when I'm on the road. The break has been so therapeutic for me. I am sure this will also serve as my inspiration for my next album (laughter).

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

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Lot Area: **1,180 sqm.**
National Highway (Tacurong-Isulan) Kalawag III, L. Dansuli, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price: **6,815,000**

LOT 41 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **1,230 sqm.**
National Highway (Surallah-Cotabato) Kalawag III, L. Dansuli, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price **3,161,000**

LOT 42 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **5,000 sqm.**
National Highway (Surallah-Cotabato) Kalawag III, L. Dansuli, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price **6,375,000**

LOT 43 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **37,829 sqm.**
National Highway (Surallah-Cotabato) Kalawag I, L. Dansuli, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price **14,034,000**

LOT 44 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: **1,500 sqm.**
Magbanua corner Lacorte Sts. Kalawag I, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price **912,000**

LOT 45 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **2,602 sqm.**
Magbanua cor. Lasiste Sts. Pob., Isulan
Minimum Bid Price **3,378,000**

LOT 46 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **983 sqm.**
Nat'l Highway (Surallah-Cotabato), Kalawag III, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price **6,840,000**

LOT 47 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **264 sqm.**
Kalawag III Road, Kalawag III, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price **2,365,000**

LOT 48 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **1,750 sqm.**
National Road (going to Bagumbayan), Kalawag III, Isulan
Minimum Bid Price **1,770,000**

LOT 49 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **93,319 sqm.**
Lot 3-B Farm Road, Brgy. Upper Katungal, Tacurong
Minimum Bid Price **5,229,000**

LOT 50 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **7,414 sqm.**
Brgy. Road, Brgy. New Isabela, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price **7,810,000**

LOT 51 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **9,069 sqm.**
Nat'l Highway, New Carmen, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price: **5,650,000**

LOT 52 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **23,131 sqm.**
National Highway, New Carmen, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price. **20,100,000**

LOT 53 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **745 sqm.**
Paredes St., Zone 1, Poblacion, Koronadal City
Minimum Bid Price **2,235,000**

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LOT 54 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **156 + 150 + 145 sqm.**
Lot 7 Blk 1, Lot 5 Blk 1 and Lot 3 Blk. 1, Don Vicente, V & G Subd. Caibaan
Minimum Bid Price **1,974,000**

LOT 55 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: **359 sqm.**
Lot 423-A Rizal Ave. Ext.
Minimum Bid Price **1,131,000**

ZAMBOANGA

LOT 56 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **4,500 sqm.**
Floor Area: **419 sqm.**
Brgy. Road, Brgy. Tumaga
Minimum Bid Price **2,761,000**

LOT 57 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **326 sqm.**
National Road, Brgy. San Jose Gusu
Minimum Bid Price **3,593,000**

LOT 58 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **500 sqm.**
Floor Area: **709 sqm.**
Canelar Moret Rd., Montezuma Heights Subd., Brgy. Canelar
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LOT 59 LOT W/ IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: **298 + 773 sqm.**
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Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
for the
Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of IP-PBX System for PSALM Corporation

1. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the total sum of FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php4,200,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of IP-PBX System for PSALM Corporation:

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Approved Budget for the Contract
I	IP-PBX System	1	lot	PhP4,200,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of IP-PBX System for PSALM Corporation. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **ITB**. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the items indicated in the Bidding Documents.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of FOUR THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (PhP4,000.00). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 26 November 2007 at 10:00 AM at the 6th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10 December 2007, 10:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, cashier's check, irrevocable letter of credit (1% of the ABC), Bank guarantee (1 ½% of ABC) or Surety Bond (2 ½% of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 10 December 2007 at 10:30 AM at the 6th floor, Bankmer Building, 6756, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation
HELENA C. TOLENTINO
7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Telefax: (02)8930699
e-mail: *PSALMBACSec@psalm.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **HELENA C. TOLENTINO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Nov. 18, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PATUBIG
(National Irrigation Administration)
BAGO RIVER IRRIGATION SYSTEM REHABILITATION & IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Region VI, Bago City, Negros Occidental

November 16, 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE NO. 2
BRISRIP LMC-004-07 (Package I-VI)

Supplemental Notice No. 2 is hereby given to all eligible Contractors/Bidders who have availed in connection with the public bidding of contract no. BRISRIP-LMC-004-07 (Package I-VI) that opening of bids will be postponed due to technical reasons, thus:

Bids received in excess of ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Package	Name of Contract	Amount
I	Construction & Improvement of Punta Taytay Main Drainage (Sta. 1+720 – Sta. 2+692)	P 6,304,622.00
II	Construction & Improvement of Punta Taytay Main Drainage (Sta. 2+692 – Sta. 5+000)	5,062,166.00
III	Construction & Improvement of Taloc Main Drainage (Sta. 2+280 – Sta. 3+020)	5,301,756.00
IV	Construction & Improvement of Taloc Main Drainage (Sta. 3+020 – Sta. 5+624)	5,749,979.00
V	Construction & Improvement of Taloc Main Drainage (Sta. 5+624 – Sta. 9+600)	5,856,525.00
VI	Construction & Improvement of Sibud Main Drainage (Sta. 4+970 – Sta. 7+235)	5,942,161.00

1. Interested eligible bidders with at least medium A Category can avail of eligibility documents at the office of the Acting Project Manager, NIA-BRISRIP, Bago City, Negros Occidental upon submission of Letter of Intent and paying of non-refundable amount of P1,500.00 starting November 19, 2007. Eligibility requirements must be delivered to NIA-BRISRIP office not later than 5:00 p.m. of November 21, 2007 and issuance of bid documents will be done on the same day upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.
2. Site visit will be conducted on November 22, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. and Pre-bid conference will be on November 22, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at NIA-BRISRIP Conference Room.
3. Technical and financial proposals must be submitted on or before 10:00 a.m. on December 04, 2007.
4. Bid opening shall be conducted at 1:30 pm on December 04, 2007at NIA-BRISRIP Conference Room, Bago City, Negros Occidental.
5. Eligibility and bidding documents shall be received by the prospective bidder or his duly authorized representative.
6. All eligible bidders who are previously qualified in the eligibility screening and have availed bid documents need not apply.

All bids of eligible bidders must be accompanied by a Bid Security in accordance with the schedule as specified in IRR of RA 9184. Late Bids will not be accepted.

The NIA-BRISRIP reserves the right to accept any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **SAMUEL S. JAPITANA**
OIC-Project Manager

(PDI–Nov. 18, 2007)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MS. JOSEPHINE M. MALALUAN** whose photograph is shown below, is no longer connected with **The Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd.**, as of October 3, 2005 and any transactions she made or will make for and in behalf of the Company on or after the said date are not authorized and are not binding on the Company.

JOSEPHINE M. MALALUAN
Mallare Subdivision, Bayanihan,
Gapan, Nueva Ecija 3105

(PDI - Nov. 18, 2007)

LEYECO II
Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Real Street Sagkahan District, Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053) 321-1491, 321-2629 Telefax No. (053) 325-7199
Email Ad: leyeco2@skyinet.net

oOo

PRE-BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO II) invites suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the supply of the following items:

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A pre-qualification of bidder conference will be held on **November 22, 2007 (Thursday)** at the LEYECO II Conference Room, Real Street Sagkahan District, Tacloban City at 9:00 in the morning. The following documents have to be presented, to wit:

a) Letter of Intent
b) Original / certified True Copy of Supplier's License/ Accreditation
c) Business Permit
d) SEC Registration
e) Certified True Copy of the Latest Financial Statement and Latest Income Tax Return
f) Certification of Availability

Bidding documents and detailed technical specifications shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00). The opening of bids shall immediately follow thereafter on the same date and venue. Sealed offers must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid offered.

LEYECO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any formality thereof and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the cooperative. The decision of the cooperative is final and binding.

(Sgd.) **MRS. ROSEMARIE V. GARCIA**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI--Nov. 18, 2007)

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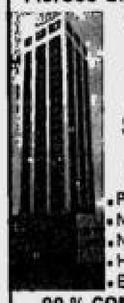

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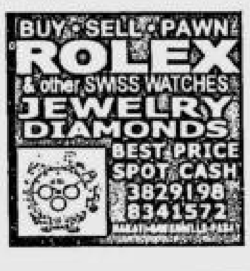

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AUCTION SALE

KRISMAR PAWNSHOP
A. Bonifacio St., San Pablo City Laguna will sell all expired pledges on NOVEMBER 28, 2007 at 9:00am to 5 pm. Atty. Castillo - Auctioneer.
(PDI- NOV 18, 2007)

FOR LEASE:
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For more inquiries. Please contact Ms. Rose or Ms. Iris at telephone numbers 9126036 9116988 or text at 0917-8870959

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the heirs of EVELINA M. BOONGALING executed declaration of heirship with waiver of rights as per Doc. No. 11035 Page No. 032 Book No. XVIII Series 2007 of Notary Public Godofredo N. Trajano of Batangas Province. (PDI -Nov 11,18 & 25, 2007)

Notice is given on the estate of the late Marcos Caldo the 2 lots at Mla Memrl Prk-Dasmarinas Lot A&B-Blk3 Narra Hills is adjudicated to Marciana Caldo by virtue of public doc. exec. on Sept.11, 2007 & ratified B4 Atty. Ulpiano S. Madamba Doc 251 Page52 BookIX Series of 2007
(PDI-Nov. 4, 11 &18, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MILA C. ANDAYA was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. #212 Page # 43 Book # XXXVI Series of 2007 before Notary Public Atty. Ryan Espinosa of Makati City.(PDI-Nov.18,25&Dec.2,2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE CARMEN M. PEREZ HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HER HEIRS AS PER DOC.#59, PAGE #13, BOOK # I-H, SERIES OF 2007 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC JIMMY D. LACEBAL OF MANDALUYONG CITY.
(PDI- Nov. 11, 18 & 25, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Marcial N. Moral was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 214 Page No. 43 Book No. LIV Series of 2007 under Notary Public Atty. Donato C. Manguiat of Quezon City
(PDI-Nov. 11, 18 & 25, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Adriano S. Adlawan was extrajudicially settlement among heirs of personal property with waiver of shares as pers Doc No. 175 Page No. 35 Book No. XXVII Series of 2007 under the Notary Public Atty Robert Michael A. Natividad of San Mateo Rizal
(PDI Nov 18, 24 & 27, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

E-Telecare International, Inc. Stock Cert No. 001691 for 80 shares in the name of JOSE L. CUISIA JR. was lost.If no contest received new cert will be issued.

Notice is hereby given that PDEA S2 Licensed # 24456N05 issued DENNIS MARC VALENCIA MD was reported lost.
(PDI-Nov.18,2007)

Notice is hereby given that Rural Bank of Mabitac,Stock Certificates Nos. 19,20,60,160,092,130 issued to ELIAS POBLETE reportedly lost If no contest is received New Certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Nov. 11,18 & 25'07)

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Asap DRAFTSMAN submit Resume 5F Prudentialife Bldg 843 Pasay Rd Makati 8133568 8138420

DEPED MARIKINA OSEC DECSB TCHR1-55367 TCHR1-52875 LET PBET PASSER

INSURANCE COORDINATOR Marikina shop Call 6464342 ; 09174344246

OPTHOMETRIST and SALES Pls Call Rose 6876160

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MACHINE TRAINEES	• Male, not more than 29 yrs. old • Graduate of Engineering or any technical vocational courses
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GRAPHIC ARTISTS	• Graduate of Fine Arts, Computer Science, & Architecture • Preferably with prior work experience in advertising or publication
QA ANALYST	• Male, not more than 28 years old • Graduate of Chemical Eng'g preferably licensed • with or without experience & willing to render overtime
QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINEE	• Male or female not more than 25 years old • Graduate of any 4 year course • must be very good in spelling, grammar, with wide vocabulary

Interested applicants may apply in person or send their comprehensive resumé, 2x2 picture and TOR to:
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No. 20 Main Avenue, Severina Industrial Subdivision,
Km. 16, South Superhighway, Parañaque City
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e-mail address: karen.madria@fortscan.com.ph
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High School Students to Benefit From D-WOW Career Expo

EIGHT HUNDRED HIGH SCHOOL students from different private and public high schools in Metro Manila will have the chance to properly choose their future careers through the Discover the World of Work (D-WOW) Career Expo 2007. The Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Inc. (FFCCCII) in close partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment – National Capital Region make this career fest possible for the first time. This one day career expo will be held at the ground floor of the Federation Building, Muelle de Binondo, Binondo, Manila from 8:00am to 5:00pm on November 23, 2007.

DOLE-NCR OIC-Regional Director Raymundo G. Agravante said, selected third and fourth year high school students will have the opportunity to peek into what the world of work is like through the career talks and virtual tours to be provided by six participating Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) and seven companies touted to be Key Employment Generators (KEGs). "DOLE believes in influencing the career decisions of our youth to ensure that the country can supply the right kind and number of workers for the projected labor demand within the next few years. D-WOW is different from the usual field trips that most of our students go to. This is a workplace career advocacy tour that will equip our high school students with tools that will shape and spell their future," Director Agravante said.

KEGs are industry sectors expected to grow and will have in demand and hard to fill jobs until 2010 based on the 2006 National Manpower Summit. Companies belonging to KEGs which support this year's career expo are the following: Lamoiyan Corporation (Agri-business), Manila Pavilion (Hotel and Restaurant), Platinum Spa (Medical Tourism), Asian Hospital and Medical Center (Health and Services), Philippine Airlines (Aviation), Aboitiz Transport Systems Corp. - Superferry (Maritime) and Informatics (Cyberservice).

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY

Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN AND RE-DEVELOPMENT OF WEBSITES FOR SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY (SBMA) AND SUBIC BAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT)

Cognizant to the fact that the Internet/Web has become a strategic tool in business, the SBMA needs to tap and maximize the use of this resource in the achievement of organizational objectives. Both the SBMA website and separate SBIA website shall be used as a new marketing channel to support promotional efforts to attract local and foreign investors and tourists inside the Freeport and provide easy access to information that is useful and of interest to them.

1. The *Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA)*, through the project allocated funds from SBMA Corporate Budget for the Fiscal Year 2007 intends to apply the sum of Php 1 Million being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Consultancy Services for the Design and Re-development of Websites for Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and Subic Bay International Airport. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. The *Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA)*, now calls for the submission of *Letters of Intent (LOI's)* from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for *Consultancy Services for the Design and Re-development of Websites for Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and Subic Bay International Airport*. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before ***November 29, 2007*** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to:

   Atty. Ferdinand L. Hernandez
   BAC Chairman
   Bids and Awards Committee
   c/o Management Information Systems Office
   Building N, Quezon Street
   Subic Bay Freeport Zone

   and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) to the SBMA Treasury Department at Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, Central Business District, Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's submitted eligibility statements against a checklist of requirements using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria, as stated in the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid (IAEB), and shall be determined as either "eligible" or "ineligible." The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on ***December 7, 2007*** up to ***5:00 p.m.*** only at the abovementioned office address.

   The Procuring Entity's BAC will open the envelopes containing the Eligibility Documents in the presence of the prospective Bidders authorized representative(s) who choose to attend on ***December 10, 2007*** starting at ***9:00 a.m.*** at Engineering Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.
3. The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted ***Letter of Intent (LOI)*** and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). Only five (5) eligible bidders shall make up the short list. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:
   - Experience of Consultant(s), Qualification and Number of personnel and current workload.
   - The evaluation procedure to be adopted is Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE).
   - The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Bidding Documents.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Bid documents will be available only to short listed bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) to the SBMA Treasury Department at Bldg. 229, Waterfront Road, Central Business District, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.
5. Interested consultants may obtain further information from *Management Information Systems Office* at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

   Management Information Systems Office
   Bldg. N, Quezon Street
   Subic Bay Freeport Zone
   (047) 252-4490
6. The contract shall be completed *within sixty (60) days or two (2) months* from receipt of *Notice of Award (NOA)* and *Notice to Proceed (NTP)*.
7. The *Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority* reserves the right to reject any and all bids. annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award. without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders

(Sgd.) ATTY. FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 18 & 25, 2007)

PETRON

BE A SERVICE STATION DEALER OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING OIL COMPANY

Service Station Location	Required Cash Capital
– A. de Jesus St., Caloocan City	P4.0M
– Dahlia cor. Lilac St., Brgy. Fairview, QC	P4.0M
– A. Bonifacio Ave., Quezon City	P7.0M
– Canlalay, Biñan, Laguna	P3.5M
– Maharlika Hway, San Pablo, Laguna	P4.0M
– Rizal St., Sorsogon City, Sorsogon	P4.5M
– Macanaya, Aparri, Cagayan	P4.0M
– Candon, Ilocos Sur	P4.0M
– Maharlika Hway, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija	P4.0M
– Talavera, Nueva Ecija	P4.0M

Note: Above capital requirement will be used for actual station operations. No up-front money will be paid to Petron. Applicants MUST meet the following criteria:

1. Has the required capitalization corresponding to the station applied for
2. Can operate the station on full time basis
3. Not existing dealers of competitive oil companies

Preference shall be given to applicants residing near the station being applied for. Previous applicants need not apply. Preferable if husband and wife team.

Please secure the prescribed application forms from Luzon Reseller, Petron Corporation, Jesus Street, Pandacan, Manila. For details, kindly get in touch with Ms. Rosette P. Sanchez at tel. 563-8521 loc. 282. Please submit the original copy of the duly-accomplished Dealership Application Form, complete with all relevant information, photo and supporting documents (i.e., to substantiate the amount of free cash and assets indicated therein) not later than 5:00 pm of December 15, 2007. The supporting documents can include (i.e., as applicable) original copies of bank certifications and statements of account as well as duplicate copies of TCT's, vehicle registrations, passbooks, etc. The original copies of duplicate documents must be presented upon submission of the application form for authentication purposes. **Only complete submissions shall be accepted.**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Office of the Regional Director
Revenue Region No. 03
Tuguegarao City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

Name of Project : **SECURITY AND JANITORIAL SERVICES**
Location : **BIR, Revenue Region No. 03, Tuguegarao City**
Approved Budget : **Security Services – P1,558,181.52**
Janitorial Services – P489,698.28
Contract Duration : **January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008**

All interested parties may get the bidding requirements/terms from Mrs. Alma A. Ventura. Head, BAC Secretariat, BIR Regional Office No. 03, ATI Bldg., Don Domingo, Tuguegarao City starting November 13, 2007. Submission of the sealed bids will be until December 19, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. The opening of envelopes 1 & 2 (legal and technical documents) will be on November 19, 2007 while the opening of envelope 3 (Financial Proposal) and deliberation will be at 9:00 a.m on December 20, 2007 and will be held at the BIR Regional Office. A Pre-bid Conference will be conducted on December 6, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Conference Hall, BIR Regional Office.

The criteria to be used by the BIR are the following: a) eligibility check of prospective bidders. b) examination and evaluation of bids; and c) post-evaluation shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The BIR-BAC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids mostly advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat at tel. no. 844-2883.

APPROVED:

Certified Correct:

(Sgd.) ALMA A. VENTURA
Head, BAC Secretariat

(Sgd.) THELMA S. MILABAO
Asst. Regional Director
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Nov. 11 & 18, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
Email: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Website: http://www.sss.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

IAEB No. 2007-057 – Goods

SSS Ee's Rice Grant for the 1st Quarter CY 2008

Brief description of the Project

• Degree of Milling	:	Well Milled Rice (WMR)
• Moisture Content	:	14% (maximum)
• Grade Specifications	:	Headrice – 90% to 95% (minimum) Broken – 10% to 5% (maximum)
• Packaging	:	50 kilos in light yellow woven polyprophylene
• Labeling	:	With front & back markings
• Quantity	:	7,374 sacks

Lot No.	Area Covered	No. of Ees	Quantity	Total Cost
I	Quezon City (excluding Lot II)	513	1,539 sacks	P 2,308,500.00
II	Fairview/Novaliches Q.C.	661	1,983 sacks	2,974,500.00
III	San Mateo/Montalban/Marikina/Pasig/Antipolo/Taguig/Pateros/Rizal/Makati/Parañaque/Pasay/Baclaran/Muntinlupa/Las Piñas/Cavite/Laguna	678	2,034 sacks	3,051,000.00
IV	Bulacan/Pampanga/Malabon/Malolos/Caloocan/Manila/Mandaluyong/San Juan	606	1,818 sacks	2,727,000.00

1. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*, through the **Operating Expense-Rice Grant** intends to apply the sum of P11,061,000.00 (P1,500.00/sack) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **supply and door-to-door delivery of approximately 7,374 sacks of Freshly Milled Premium Grade Commercial Rice for SSS employees for the first quarter of Year 2008.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **supply and door-to-door delivery of approximately 7,374 sacks of Freshly Milled Premium Grade Commercial Rice. Supply and door-to-door delivery** of the GOODS is required within **thirty (30) calendar days** after contract signing/receipt of purchase order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section 1 of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure on a per lot basis.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* & inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee based on the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC).

Lot No.	Amount of Bid Tender Documents
I	P 2,500.00
II	P 2,500.00
III	P 2,500.00
IV	P 2,500.00

   If the bidder opted to participate in more than one (1) lot, the bidder shall pay corresponding to the total cost of the bidding documents for all the lots it intends to participate.

   The method of payments will be on cash basis/manager's check payable to SSS to be paid at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg., Ground floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **December 03, 2007 at 2:30 p.m.**, Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on **December 17, 2007 not later than 2:00 p.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in a form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **December 17, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.**, Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address given.
9. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids without offering any reason, waive any formality or technicality & to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

Bid and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. # 922-2991; 924-7380; 920-6401 local 5491
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

(Sgd.) THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI – November 18, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development II
SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL
Rosano, Santiago City

SIGH-HOSPITAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Invitation to apply for eligibility and to bid

The Southern Isabela General Hospital (SIGH) hereby invites sealed written bids from interested and eligible suppliers/manufacturers/distributors participate in the bidding for the procurement and delivery of Hospital Supplies and Drugs and Medicines for the CY 2008. Funding sources are from the GOP Allotment for Maintenance and other operating expenses. Revolving Funds from Drugs and Medicines and Hospital Retained Incomes.

Application forms for Eligibility shall be available upon payment of non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00), from November 19, 2007 up to the date before the submission and opening of the bids from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the HOBAC Secretariat, Property & Supply Office, SIGH.

Deadline for Submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and supporting documents shall not be later than the day before the scheduled date of the submission and opening of bids by category. Please bring original copies of all submitted documents for proper authentication.

Interested Bidders can obtain the BID Documents from the HOBAC Secretariat, at the Administrative Services Office, SIGH from November 19, 2007 up to the date before the opening of the bids by category and upon payment of non-refundable fees as indicated per category. Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis at the hospital Collection Unit.

Categories	ABC	Contract Period	Amount
Drugs and Medicines	10,482,478.00	One year	Php 3,500.00
Medical Supplies	14,427,066.50	One year	Php 3,500.00
Laboratory Supplies	3,939,550.00	One year	Php 3,550.00
Dental Supplies	262,456.00	One year	
X-ray Supplies	117,660.00	One year	

General Pre-bid Conference will be held on November 26, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the SIGH Conference. Rosario, Santiago City unless announced otherwise.

Bid Quotations must be submitted to the Hospital Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the time/dates specified below, which said bids will be opened and evaluated in Public on:

Activities	Schedule	Times
Submission Receipt and opening of Bids	December 1, 2007	10:00 AM
Issuance of Notice of Award	December 11-14, 2007	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Posting of Notice of Award	December 17-19, 2007	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Issuance of Contract	December 20-24, 2007	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Issuance of Notice to Proceed	December 26-29, 2007	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Each BID must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the lump sum per category of the Approved Budget Cost (ABC) participated in any form as indicated in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS).

All above cited activities shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

For further details, please contact the HOBAC Secretariat at telephone No. 078-682-8123, Fax No. 078-682-7687 (Property & Supply Office). The SIGH HOBAC Reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bid, to annul the bidding process, and rejects all bids at any time prior to the award of the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder/bidders on the reasons for doing so. SIGH - HOBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify bids nor deem it guaranteed that an award will be made.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) JOSE ILDEFONSO B. COSTALES, JR., MD, MHA, CESE, FICS
Chief of Hospital I

(PDI - Nov. 16 & 18, 2007)

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

JOB Market
Find a career in here

SKYWORLD BUSINESS MERGER INC.
POEA-023- LB-071806-UL 101 Elena V Building J. Nakpil corner F. Benitez St., Malate Manila. Tel. # (632) 524 2454 or (632) 524 3161

CANADA

URGENT!!!!!!
British Columbia; CANADA: THE HAMLETS AT PENTICTON
20 RN NURSES $2,275.00Cad/month (Negotiable)

- Min of 3 yrs nursing exp, who will be working as Residential Care Aides
- Preferably with overseas exp., IELTS/ TOEFL /TSE passer & working with senior patients who have Severe Dementia and Acute, Brain Injuries are an advantage.

Victoria B.C; CANADA: Romeo's Place
50 INTERNATIONAL COOK

- Preferably with Italian Cuisine Experience
- Min of 3 yrs experience Fluency in English is a must

CARIBBEAN

CARIBBEAN; ANGUILLA, B.W.I. Saint Martin: AFOO Group of Companies
FORKLIFT TECHNICIAN / MECHANIC Salary negotiable
FEMALE GRAPHIC ARTIST Salary negotiable
SOUS CHEF. Salary negotiable
NETWORK TECHNICIAN / ELECTRICAL Salary negotiable
CAR PAINTER – must have exp. in car body building Salary negotiable
UPHOLSTERER Salary negotiable
* Salaries are based on Caribbean Labour Law*

Please submit SOFT COPY and HARD COPY of DETAILED resume, INDICATE JOB DESCRIPTIONS, with complete attachment of photocopies of Certifications & Training at the above stated address.

FOR MANPOWER POOLING. NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED.
BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS.

The Management Systems International (MSI) project with offices in Salcedo Village, Makati, is looking for an

IT Specialist – Network Connectivity

To design and manage an IT connectivity project from selecting network installation and technical training vendors, to change management. The individual must have at least 3 years of experience with the installation of hardware and network equipment in multi-site companies and/or government organizations, including pre-installation site surveys and the identification of equipment needs. Interested applicants must submit their CV and cover letter on or before 5 PM of 23 November 2007 to Ms. Mabel Pastrana at

mpastrana@msi-mca.com

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Anderson Bldg., II, Brgy. Panan, Calamba City
November 18, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	PANASONIC COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES CORPORATION CIP II, Calamba City	Mr. Takahisa Araki/ Japanese	General Manager – Digital Imaging Division
2.	BRENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, MANILA, Brentville Subd. Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna	Ms. Katrina Louise Jackson/ Australian	Lower School Teacher
3.	NIDEC COPAL PHILIPPINES CORPORATION, LISP I, Bo. Diezmo, Cabuyao, Laguna	Mr. Ryo Nagoya/ Japanese	Vice President
4.	KAKAIBANG UNIQUE INC. Poblacion IV, Tanza, Cavite	Mr. Gi Woo Nam/ Korean	President

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI–Nov. 18, 2007)

ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS SERVICE COMMAND
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
GHQ & HSC PROPERTY DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines through the General Headquarters and Headquarters Service Command invites all interested parties to submit sealed proposals for the sale of Two (2) Lots of Material Properties located at Disposal Yard Supply Unit (Provisional), GHQ & HSC, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City on 'AS IS, WHERE IS' basis. The Pre-Bidding Conference will be conducted on November 27, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. Final Pre-Bidding Conference will be on 03 December 2007 at 2:00 P.M. and, the Actual Public Bidding will be conducted on 08 December at 2:00 PM. All Conferences will be held at the Daza Park Pavilion, GHQ & HSC, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
One (1) lot	CV-001-07 One Hundred Twenty Three (123) Assorted Salvaged / Junk Vehicles	Disposal Yard, SU(P)
One (1) lot	CV-002-07 One Lot of Assorted Scrap and residue From QM, Engineer, Signal, Ordnance, Medical and Dental Items estimated weight of 20 tons	Disposal Yard, SU(P)

The above Unserviceable equipment and scrap materials may be inspected at the Supply Unit (P), GHQ & HSC, CGEA, QC during office hours starting after the Pre-Bidding Conference on 27 November 2007. For Offical Bid Forms and inquiries, please refer to the Mr. Marlon U Butiong, SAO, Unserviceable Properties and Assistant Chief, Property Reutilization and Disposal Division, SU(P), GHQ & HSC at Office No. 913-9563 or 911-6001 local 4433 / 4435 and / or Mobile Phone No. CP No. 09174007972.

Sealed Bids shall be accompanied by a refundable cash bid securities equivalent to 10% of the total amount of bid. Manager, Cashier or Certified Cheques shall be considered and accepted as Cash.

The AFP through the GHQ and HSC Property Disposal Committee reserves (1) the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defects or informality of the bids received. (2) to accept the bid most advantageous to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, particularly the AFP Modernization Program and (3) to recommend the award to the highest and most complying winning bidder, subject to CSAFP's approval as recommended by the GHQ & HSC Disposal Committee. CSAFP approval shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) COL FLAVIANO M VALDEHUEZA JR PAF (GSC)
Chairman, GHQ & HSC Disposal Committee

(PDI – November 16, 17 & 18 2007)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

Head Office:
897-8425 (Telefax)
899-4427; 897-8808
loc. 514, 516;
899-4425;

Cubao: (Aurora)
912-9008 to 11

Makati:
892-5578; 811-4361;
811-4370

Kalaw:
523-5570
loc. 115 or 116
528-0213

Megamall:
635-0219;
635-0220

Management Trainee

Graduate of 4 year course in a reputable school
At least within the top 20% of the class

BSBA-Major in Management

- Accounting
- Marketing
- Finance
- Economics

BS-Industrial Engineering
Computer Engineering

Requirements:

- Ages 22-25 years old
- Preferably with working experience but not required
- With pleasing personality
- Good command in English

Interested applicants may contact:
(02) 361-1506 loc 1217
Look for Ms. Guada Santos
VLI Hiring Officer
or e-mail us at **vlihrd_hiring @yahoo.com**

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Ultrasound can also be used to 'see' the heart

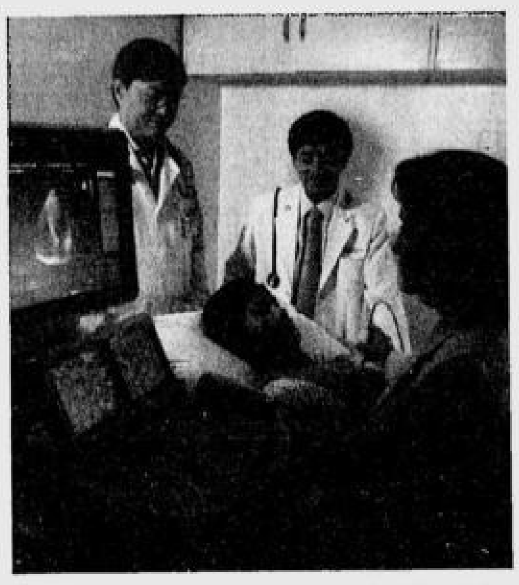
ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY IS ONE OF THE most widely used procedures for diagnosing heart disorders because it is noninvasive, safe, relatively inexpensive, widely available, and provides excellent images of the heart.

"Echocardiography is a diagnostic procedure that uses high-frequency ultrasound waves, similar to those used to take sonograms of a fetus, that are bounced off the heart to produce a moving image of this vital organ," explained Dr. Greg Rogelio, chief of the Diagnostics and Instrumentation Division of St. Luke's Heart Institute.

The ultrasound waves are emitted by a handheld probe called a "transducer". The doctor places gel on the chest and moves the transducer over the area of the heart as a computer analyzes the rebounding waves to create images of the heart displayed on a monitor.

"By varying the placement and angle of the transducer, doctors can view the heart and nearby major blood vessels from various angles and thus get an accurate picture of heart structure and function," said Dr. Rogelio.

Dr. Marietta Crisostomo, head of the Echocardiography Department pointed out that, "The advent of 3D echocardiography technology allows a more accurate, fast, easy and measurable assessment of the different structures of the heart that reduces the "guesswork" from interpreting images that are produced by other technologies."


DR. GREG Rogelio (center, standing), chief of the Diagnostics and Instrumentation Division of St. Luke's Heart Institute and Dr. Marietta Crisostomo (right, seated), Echocardiography Department head, oversee a 3D echocardiogram on a heart patient. Also in photo is Dr. Loewe Go.

Both Dr. Rogelio and Dr. Crisostomo have trained under Dr. Natesa Pandian in the Cardiovascular Imaging and Hemodynamic Laboratory of Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts to further their expertise in 3D echocardiography.

St. Luke's Medical Center is the only hospital in the Philippines that performs 3D echocardiography using the Philips iE33 Echocardiography System-a new generation of cardiac ultrasound equipment that uses high-definition imaging that allows physicians diagnose heart disease and provides data analysis tools that help doctors make treatment decisions and monitor their success.

With the growing number of patients with congestive heart failure, congenital and valvular heart diseases, cutting-edge diagnostic tools such as 3D echocardiography play an increasingly significant role in helping cardiologists arrive at fast and accurate diagnoses. For details, log on to www.stluke.com.ph. To schedule an appointment, call 723-0101 ext. 4703 or 5405.

SSS BALIKAT NG BAYAN
Awarding Ceremony
Ramo gsaysay H s Building,
Fast Aven on City
2007

SSS AWARDS METROBANK

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank), the country's largest bank, was recently conferred the Balikat ng Bayan - Hall of Fame Award for SSS Best Collecting Bank by the Social Security System (SSS). The recognition is given to employers, collecting and paying banks, and participating financial institutions in appreciation of their invaluable support to SSS programs. Metrobank has won the Balikat ng Bayan Best Collecting Commercial Bank award for a total of 7 times, in 1996, 1998, 1999, and from 2001 to 2004, giving it the highest number of awards received for the category. Present during the awarding ceremonies were (from left): SSS chair Corazon de la Paz, Metrobank executive vice president Dennis Suico, Vice President Noli de Castro, and Social Security Commission chair Thelmo Cunanan.

PINOY FAMILIES LOVE THE HEALTHY LIFE

Do Pinoys still value good health as they cope with increasing work and family demands that leave little room or time for anything else? The answer is a resounding 'yes' as proven by countless families who trooped early to HealthToday and HealthGuide's family health fair entitled 'Love the Healthy Life: A Family Health Special.' And the attendees did learn much about family health care and well-being in the all-day event held at the SM Megamall's Megatrade Hall 3 in Mandaluyong City last Oct. 20. More than 30 sponsors and exhibitors from the pharmaceutical, consumer goods, fast food, finance, and home and lifestyle industries joined the affair, contributing valuable information, products, and services to help keep Filipino families in the 'pink of health.' Families tried out various free health services (pediatric consultations, bone density screenings, tummy checks) and received product samples and giveaways. The kids, meanwhile, had a grand time at a supervised play-and-learn activity area. In the afternoon, popular celebrity-mom Gladys Reyes hosted a talk program that gave attendees new health insights. Radio personality DJ Teta got the program rolling with exciting games and giveaways. Dr. Jane Ricaforte-Campos demystified dyspepsia and gave tips on effectively treating this stomach condition. Lifestyle host

Michelle Ty-Simone showed moms how to whip up healthy, delicious bread snacks. Banker Ricky Espiritu simplified personal financial management with practical saving and investing tips. Drawing huge applause and laughter was an entertaining aerobics challenge between audience participants and certified fitness instructors. In-between segments, many people joined games and answered health questions to win prizes ranging from toys to baby-care and health products. Finally, to cap a day of learning and fun, HealthToday and HealthGuide staff distributed goodie bags in appreciation of the attendees' support for the event.

Making big money in distressed properties

PROPERTIES-IN-DISTRESS OFFERS a lot of opportunities to real estate investors not only in terms of good profit but also the opportunity of saving the owner's credit standing and remaining equity in the property. In addition, the good image of the neighborhood is restored after rehabilitating dilapidated properties. It also saves the distressed owner from more sleepless nights and gives him a new start with the money saved from the avoided foreclosure.

To learn more techniques on how to profitably invest in distressed properties, Urban Institute of Real Estate invites investors to attend a seminar on "Making Big Money in Distressed Properties" on Dec. 7, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Maximo Function Room, Max's Restaurant, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Quezon City.

The four-hour lecture includes how to solve the owner's problem; the overall strategies; keys to success; how to find distressed properties/sellers; how to make your offer; important provisions for your protection; negotiating strategies with owner and lender; common mistakes that should be avoided; valuing properties by mini appraisal; many tips on inspecting properties, financing, rehabilitating the property, selling the property, documentation and registration, taxation; and other important topics.

The other topics, which may be attended separately and are all stand alone are as follows: Nov. 26 - Investing in Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What are Needed to Learn before Investing; Nov. 28 - How to Start and Manage A Successful Real Estate Brokerage Company; Dec. 3 - Joint Ventures and Syndications for Real Estate Projects; Dec. 5 - Management of Rental Properties: How to Maximize Income of Rental Properties; and Dec. 10 - Taxation of Real Estate Sales and other Transactions.

This Lecture Series is accredited by DTI for CEP compliance and will have as lecturer engineer Enrico S. Cruz, who has more than 40 years in real estate, engineering, construction, management and education. Cruz is also a licensed real estate consultant and 1st and 8th placer in the real estate appraiser's and broker's board examinations respectively, and was invested as a "Real Estate Fellow" by the Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators.

For other details or advance registration, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928, 796-8019 or CP# 0916-426-9174/0921-683-9431 or by e-mail at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Locman: The great pioneer

THE HEART OF LOCMAN'S watches strikes on the wonderful bay of Campo, where a team of professionals is working together in extraordinary harmony. Living on an island on Tuscany is their choice of life, friendship and style. Here, ideas are born and strategies are worked out, both technical and commercial. Further production stages are carried out in Milan, inside the Genesi industrial compound, where a staff of master watchmakers is working in compliance with the highest quality standards. This deserves being considered the most efficient and modern factory in the whole Italian watch-making sector. Case and high-tech components are produced inside the laboratories of Materie Future: in a highly sophisticated and protected environment, a team of skilled engineers is devoted to research and development of technologically advanced materials, such as carbon fiber, titanium, aluminum and alternative alloys.

Always looking for new solutions in the use of materials and design, for Locman, research is an everyday challenge and the only possible tool available to propose watches with a soul projected into the future and capable of marking fashion and trends. Years of research work and investments in high-tech materials led to a prestigious result: the House on the Elba Island pioneered the production of watches provided with cases in carbon fiber and titanium.

Working on carbon fiber implies great difficulty in production, mainly if the field of application is a product with an extremely reduced and complex surface, as a watch is. For Locman's engineers, this entailed an audacious challenge. The first step consisted of studying the sectors where carbon fiber had been used first, like in ultra-sophisticated fields, such as space aeronautics or Formula-1 automotive engineering, where lightness and resistance represent major properties.

Following the success of the limited edition Tremila-Aeronautica Militare models, Locman Italy now introduces the latest versions of these special Series 3000 timepieces to the international public without the military symbol. Made with avant-garde materials of high quality and resistance, this model interprets the spirit of infinite freedom as procured by flight and by most extreme sports: an unforgettable high adrenalin experience made possible only by the ultra-sophisticated aircraft made of top quality materials that are able to withstand extreme conditions.

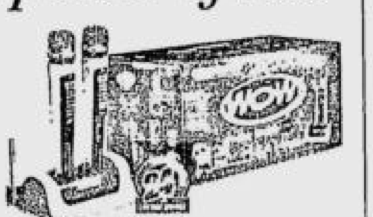
Combining the strength of ultra-modern materials such as carbon with energetic and confident colors like yellow and orange, Tremila is for the robust people who live life on the edge. For those with a preference for rigorous technical standards, including in the world of sports, this model has colors such as black and white for them.

Get these Locman watches at Rafael Jewellery 2/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall; My Diamond Glorietta 4 and My Diamond Gateway. For more information, call (632)687-3172 or 687-0322.

ProductFILES

Celebrating the power of two

TWO HEADS ARE DEFINITELY better than one. Think shopping with your sister, watching movies with your bro, eating cheesecake with your mom, or watching a game match with your dad. Surely, life's always better when you have someone to share fun-filled moments-and even gloomy times with.



And what could be a better way to let loose from all your troubles than to have your best pal sing with you your favorite songs in your specially marked "WOW videoke day." Oh, but don't worry if both you and your friend is the I-want-to-hold-the-microphone type. Wow! the No.1 magic sing in the country, unleashes the latest addition to its roster of world-class and superbly entertaining magic sing products-the new Wireless Concerto Duet (EG 18000).

Wow's Wireless Concerto Duet is definitely the first of its kind since instead of having a single mic, you can now have two microphones to let your friend or your singing buddy sing together with you and have both of you belt the high tunes. Moreover, with the Concerto Duet Edition, you can now sing as far as 10-meters--or even up to 50 meters away from the TV screen, and still have that clear sound quality.

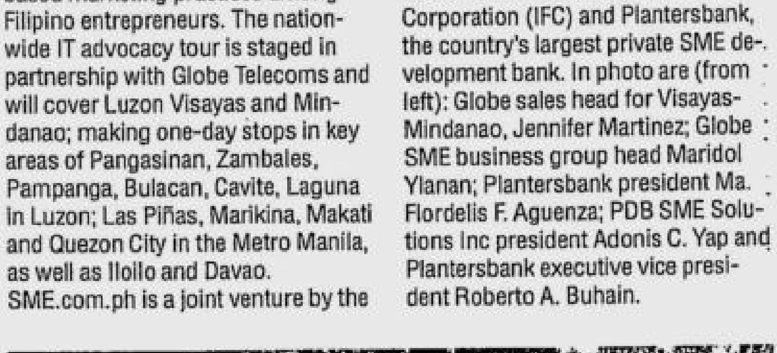
Not stirred yet? Wait 'till you browse over all of its 2,064 built-in songs - ranging from soft, mellow pop and rock, to reggae and country music - which are all sure to pump the whole videoke singing community in superb fun and excitement. Moreover, videoke fanatics may now have less tedious time looking and searching for the song they would love to hit the tunes with since the Concerto Duets Edition, has an on-screen search for artists or song titles.

Plus! Wow Wireless Concerto Duet Edition also has a pitch transposition instant key-change that lets you adjust your voice from male to female and vice versa. It's certainly a surefire way to bond with your family and friends. With Wow! Wireless Concerto Duet Edition, you and your friend can now share the stage in showing the world your singing prowess. After all, life's always blissful with your best pal around.

Wow! Concerto Duet is available at all leading music stores and appliance centers nationwide. Exclusively distributed by In-A-Jiffy Enterprises. For more information, call (02)362-1566/361-9450 local 835-836 or 724-7079/722-5127.

ENABLING SMES THROUGH E-BUSINESS

Web portal and e-Business provider SME.com.ph recently kicked-off its nationwide IT advocacy tour at the Cebu International Convention Center in Mandaue City. Dubbed 'Bringing Global e-business Solutions to the Filipino Entrepreneur', the tour aims to promote information technology use and build confidence in web-based marketing practices among Filipino entrepreneurs. The nationwide IT advocacy tour is staged in partnership with Globe Telecoms and will cover Luzon Visayas and Mindanao; making one-day stops in key areas of Pangasinan, Zambales, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna in Luzon; Las Piñas, Marikina, Makati and Quezon City in the Metro Manila, as well as Iloilo and Davao. SME.com.ph is a joint venture by the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Plantersbank, the country's largest private SME development bank. In photo are (from left): Globe sales head for Visayas-Mindanao, Jennifer Martinez; Globe SME business group head Maridol Ylanan; Plantersbank president Ma. Flordelis F. Aguenza; PDB SME Solutions Inc president Adonis C. Yap and Plantersbank executive vice president Roberto A. Buhain.



UCPB OPENS 215TH ATM SITE IN QUEZON

UCPB opened recently its 215th ATM site at the main entrance gate of the Quezon Power Plant (QPP) in coconut-rich Mauban, Quezon. The new UCPB ATM brings electronic banking convenience to the town's 50,000 residents and the over 500 people working in the power plant. The 100-hectare, 440-megawatt QPP, the largest private power project in the Philippines, supplies electricity to Quezon and Manila. Shown inaugurating the new ATM site are (from left) QPP plant manager John Timothy Davis, UCPB first vice president Edmond Bernardo and QPP human resources manager Marcia Gesmundo.

Mythbusting Night reveals how HP Original Ink Cartridges give you more

HUNDREDS OF HP'S PARTNERS AND channel suppliers, including key members of the Business and IT press gathered at the Blue Leaf Events Pavilion at The Fort Global City for the HP Mythbusting Night, where HP publicly revealed the results of a study which proves that HP Original Supplies give more in value and quality.

Drawing inspiration from the pop-science show Mythbusters, the event challenged the myth that ink cartridges coming from 3rd party ink refilling and remanufacturing companies can rival the quality of HP Original Ink Supplies in terms of page yield and reliability.

The study conducted by TÜV SÜD PSB a tie-up between internationally renowned testing and research agencies PSB Test Corporation and Technischer Überwachungsverein, quantitatively show that on average Original HP Inkjet Print Cartridges produce over twice as many pages (106.6 percent more) compared to Asia Pacific brands of remanufactured and refilled ink cartridges tested. (1)

With regards to reliability, the findings revealed that more than one in four (25.7 percent) cartridges from Asia Pacific brands of remanufactured and refilled cartridges tested were found dead on arrival (DOA) or failed prematurely, compared to Original HP Cartridges that had no such reliability issues during testing.

Host TJ Manotoc started the program with a quick game before introducing HP Philippines' consumer and supplies business manager, imaging and printing group, Jenny Siquioco, who provided the welcoming remarks.

Neel Pillai, marketing manager for supplies category, imaging and printing group, HP Asia Pacific, then revealed the overview of the study conducted by TÜV SÜD PSB, and introduced the next speaker, Lee Heng Tan, assistant vice president of the Electrical and Electronic Center of TÜV SÜD PSB. Tan provided an in-depth perspective about his company's study, citing statistical proof of HP Original Supplies' dominance over third party suppliers.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16

TERESA "Titang" ENRIQUEZ SALANG

November 2, 1925 - November 16, 2007

Her loving husband **Juan "Johnny" M. Salang** (†); children **Eduardo "Dingjo"** (†) & **Molly Joaquin**, **Juan Jr. "Chitong"** & **Leni Ayop**, **Ma. Concepcion "Marichi"** & **Alex Campos**, **Ma. Pilar " Maripi"** & **Mike Fortich**, **Ma. Rosario "Marisa"**, **Adolfo "Bombing"**, **Longino "Gino"** & **Rizza Songalia** and **Kurt**; grandchildren **Teenee**, **Selena**, **Tad**, **Erika** (†), **Edwina**, **Bardo**, **Bas**, **Patricia**, **Paolo**, **Jomic** & **Diane**, **John** & **Karen**, **Joanne**, **Bolly**, **Wolly**, **Colin** and **Kobe**; great-grandchildren **Enrique**, **Mia** and **Nathalia** will miss her greatly and will forever love her.

Her remains lie in state at her residence at C.M. Recto Avenue, Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

Interment will be announced later.

MA. LUZ ROCES JALBUENA

August 05, 1916 – November 08, 2007

Her children:
Boboy and Judy
Javy (†) and Candy
Jose Maria and Tatat

her grandchildren and great-grandchildren request you to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

santo niño del remedio

ORACIÓN AL SANTO NIÑO DEL REMEDIO

Santo Niño del Remedio,
dulce emblema de ternura,
encanto del alma mía, mi
amor, mi bien, mi ventura.

Remedia todos mis males,
atiende mis peticiones,
consuela todas mis penas y
escucha mis oraciones.

En tanto que, reverente,
Niño Divino y Glorioso, te digo
con alma y vida: Salúdote
Niño hermoso.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7

TERESITA ABAYA OKOL

who peacefully joined her Creator on the 14th of November 2007 at the age of 70.

Her bereaved husband Col. Cesar C. Okol (Ret.); children Cecile, Buddy and Cocoy; grandchildren, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz – Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be on Sunday, November 18, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. after the Mass at 2:00 p.m.

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed

FEVI VELASQUEZ PURISIMA

On the 18th year of her birth to eternal life
November 17, 1989

Holy masses are being offered for the eternal repose of her soul.

We, Fidel Cesar Dalla and Grace, request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for her everlasting peace and happiness.

Death Notice

JAIME ERNESTO B. BASA

March 6, 1960 - Nov. 12, 2007

His body will lie at Chapel Fir, Sanctuarium, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City as soon as the body arrives on the night of November 22, 2007 from Australia.

Tentative interment will be on November 27, 2007 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

Judge Oscar M. Payawal (ret.)

#49 G. Araneta Ave., Santol, Q.C.

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 81.

He shall be missed by his dearest wife **Milagros** (**Nene**); sons **Andre** and **Dr. Oscar Jr.** (**Bong**); daughters-in-law **Zor** and **Dra. Diana**; grandchildren **Paolo, Ivan, Nikki, Oscar Joseph** (**OJ**) and **Oscar Joshua**, relatives and friends.

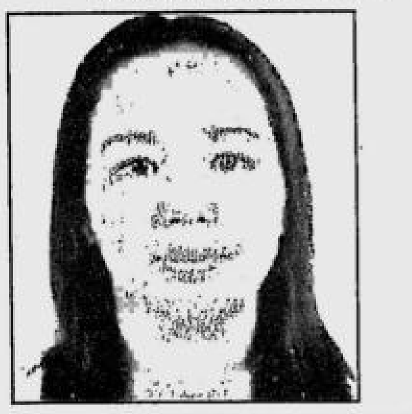
They request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the **Sanctuarium** (Chapel Rose Garden), No. 739 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on November 21, 2007, Wednesday, at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Q.C. after the 2 pm, Holy Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



CLARISSA J. CUSTODIO and **RAUL L. CUSTODIO**, whose pictures appear above, have a standing Warrant of Arrest issued by the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, Branch 88, in Criminal Case No. Q-07-147483, entitled "People of the Philippines vs. Clarissa Custodio, et. al." for Estafa. They are presently at large.

If you have any information on their whereabouts which could lead to the service of the warrant of arrest against them, please contact Atty. Lilia P. De Vera or Mr. Sherwin C. Guillermo at Asiatic Development Corporation, Phoenix Sun Business Park, E. Rodriguez Jr., Avenue, Libis, Quezon City. Tel. Nos. 9133378 and 9133381.

(PDI - Nov. 18, 2007)

CLASSIFIEDS

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
Wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO BID

"AS IS, WHERE IS"

For the sale of the following:

DESCRIPTION:

32	units	Air handling units
1	unit	Unserviceable 240 York Chiller
1	unit	Generator set Seimens brand 647 kw cap
4	units	Cooling towers
1	lot	Air-conditioning piping
2	units	Open type air conditioning 30 ton capacity
1	lot	Unserviceable office equipment, furniture, fixtures, and kitchen utensils
1	lot	Mechanical equipment, tamford alternator, water pump and electric motors
1	unit	Unserviceable Isuzu truck
1	pc	Cadillac frame without engine
1	lot	Condenser 20 TR
1	lot	Other scrap materials

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 5:00 p.m. on December 4, 2007 at Property and Supply Division, Finance and Administrative Building, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City and shall then and there be opened for the sale of the item/s bidded. Pre-bid conference shall be held on November 23, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the above address.

All bids must be submitted with the proposal bond deposit in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to 10% of the total bid price.

The said items are available for inspection right after the pre-bid conference until 4:00 p.m. and on November 27, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional information and bid forms may be secured from MS. LEONILA S. DE DIOS at the above address or call telephone numbers 832-3668 and 551-0039.

The CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be advantageous to the Center.

(Sgd.) TERESA S. RANCES
Chairman, Committee on Disposal

(PDI - Nov. 10, 11 & 18, 2007)

Service Contractors & Manpower Cooperatives can they marry & live happily ever after?

THE PHIL. ASSOCIATION OF Local Service Contractors (PALSCON) in cooperation with the Dept. of Labor & Employment will hold a special forum on Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007 (1-5 pm only) at the Technopark Hotel, Greenfield Autopark, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The centerpiece of this special forum is clarifying applicability of D.O. 18-02, series of 2002, to Manpower Cooperatives as per DOLE Circular 01-07 issued by Secretary Arturo Brion of the Dept. of Labor.

The guest speaker is Atty. Rebecca Chato, Director of Labor Relations, DOLE, Atty. Ricardo Martinez, Director for Region IV will also Grace the occasion.

Registration fee is Php 1,000.00 only/person. For reservation, please call or text: Fred Castro (0917) 8007089, Loida Bautista (0917) 8174887, Sarah (0917) 8997023, Linda ((0917) 8665768.

ERRATUM

In the Invitation to Bid for Item 2 - One lot supply and installation of the following per BSP scope of work and specifications of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas published in this paper on October 18, 2007, the specification should be "10,100 pcs" instead of "10,000" for the 28-Watt Fluorescent Lamp.

Our Apologies.

CALL POEA

24-HOUR HOTLINES

722-1144 or 722-1155

NEED LARGE QUANTITY

COCO LUMBER BAHI GRADE, ITIM/PULA
Thickness: 2"; Width: 4", 6", 8"
Length: 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 feet
BUYING: BAHI ITIM P18/bdft, BAHI PULA P12/bdft
Delivered price to Cabuyao, Laguna
Call 09176209777 or (049)8323911
Contact: Robert

INVITATION TO BID

"AS IS WHERE IS"

Damaged Motor Vehicles

2002 Honda City LXI A/T / XEL-763
2006 Nissan Urvan Escapade / ZFJ-754

For particulars, please call:
Philam Ins. Co., Inc.
c/o Tristan Yoro & Arvin Calipjo
at Tel. No. 815-3000

(PDI - Nov. 17 & 18, 2007)

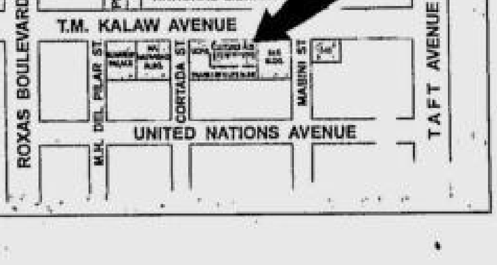
ANNOUNCEMENT

to our valued advertisers

PDI Kalaw branch has been transferred to:

G/F Traveller's Life Bldg.,
490 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
(In front of National Library)

To serve your advertising needs, please call
523-5570 (Trunk Line) loc. 115 or 116
525-7023 (Classified)



Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIA
Province of Northern Samar
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : November 18, 2007
ADB Loan No. : 1772–PHI
Contract No. : SP-08-009-01

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InfRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for **Victoria 12.34 Kms. Farm to Market Road, Package 1.** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that:
   (a) are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake infrastructure projects as Medium A contractor or better, and
   (b) have undertaken within the past 5 years, as the contractor, management contractor or subcontractor, (3) roads construction work projects valued at least Nineteen Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P19,500,000.00) each.
2. The *LGU-Victoria* invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the construction and completion of the Works for the Victoria 12.34 kilometers Victoria Farm to Market Road Package 1, which includes Earthworks (Excavation and Embankment); Road Gravelling, Construction/Installation of RCBC and RCPC; and Construction of two Units Concrete Bridges and Overflow Bridge. The Contract Period is about (360 calendar days)
3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, at BAC Secretariat at LGU-Victoria , Victoria, Northern Samar.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS (P8,000.00).**
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Security of 2% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to LGU-VICTORIA, VICTORIA, N. SAMAR. The schedule of bid activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 19 to December 17, 2007	8:00 A.M. to 5:00 PM	BAC Secretariat, LGU-Victoria, N. Samar
Bid Preparation Period	November 19 to December 17, 2007		
Pre-Bid Conference	December 21, 2007	2:00 P.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar
Deadline for Submission of Bids	January 8, 2008	10:00 A.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar
Bid Opening	January 8, 2008	10:00 A.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar

6. The LGU reserves the right to accept or reject any bids and to cancel the bidding process at any time prior to award of the contractor, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidders of the reasons for Employer's action.
7. For further inquiries, you can call cell no. 09286921686/09195128278.

(Sgd.) **MARTHA E. CADANO**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Nov. 18 & 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIA
Province of Northern Samar
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : November 18, 2007
ADB Loan No. : 1772–PHI
Contract No. : SP-08-009-02

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RURAL PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT SECTOR (InfRES) PROJECT and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for **Victoria 7.42 Kms. Farm to Market Road, Package 2.** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank that:
   (a) are registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board to undertake infrastructure projects as Small B contractor or better, and
   (b) have undertaken within the past 5 years, as the contractor, management contractor or subcontractor, (3) roads construction work projects valued at least Nine Million Pesos (P9,000,000.00) each.
2. The *LGU-Victoria* invites sealed bids from bidders with the above qualifications for the construction and completion of the Works for the Victoria 7.42 kilometers Farm to Market Road Package 2, which includes Earthworks (Excavation and embankment); Road Gravelling; and Construction/Installation of RCBC and RCPC. The Contract Period is about (240 calendar days).
3. Bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect and acquire the bidding documents, at BAC Secretariat LGU-Victoria , Victoria, Northern Samar.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS (P8,000.00).**
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Security of 2% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to LGU-VICTORIA, VICTORIA, N. SAMAR. The schedule of bid activities are as follows:

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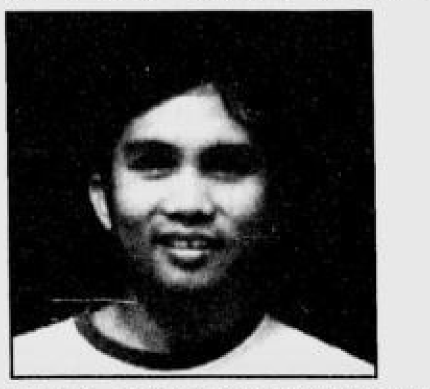
Bid Preparation Period	November 19 to December 17, 2007		
Pre-Bid Conference	December 21, 2007	9:00 A.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar
Deadline for Submission of Bids	January 4, 2008	2:00 P.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar
Bid Opening	January 4, 2008	2:00 P.M.	Municipal Session Hall, Victoria, N. Samar

6. The LGU reserves the right to accept or reject any bids and to cancel the bidding process at any time prior to award of the contractor, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidders of the reasons for Employer's action.
7. For further inquiries, you can call cell no. 09286921686/09195128278.

(Sgd.) **MARTHA E. CADANO**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Nov. 18 & 25, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



ROBERT ESTRADA SORIO

Notice is hereby given to the public that **MR. ROBERT ESTRADA SORIO** whose picture appears above, has been terminated and ceased to be connected with **BSB JUNROSE AUTOPARTS CORPORATION, an affiliate of BSB Group, Inc.** effective October 19, 2007.

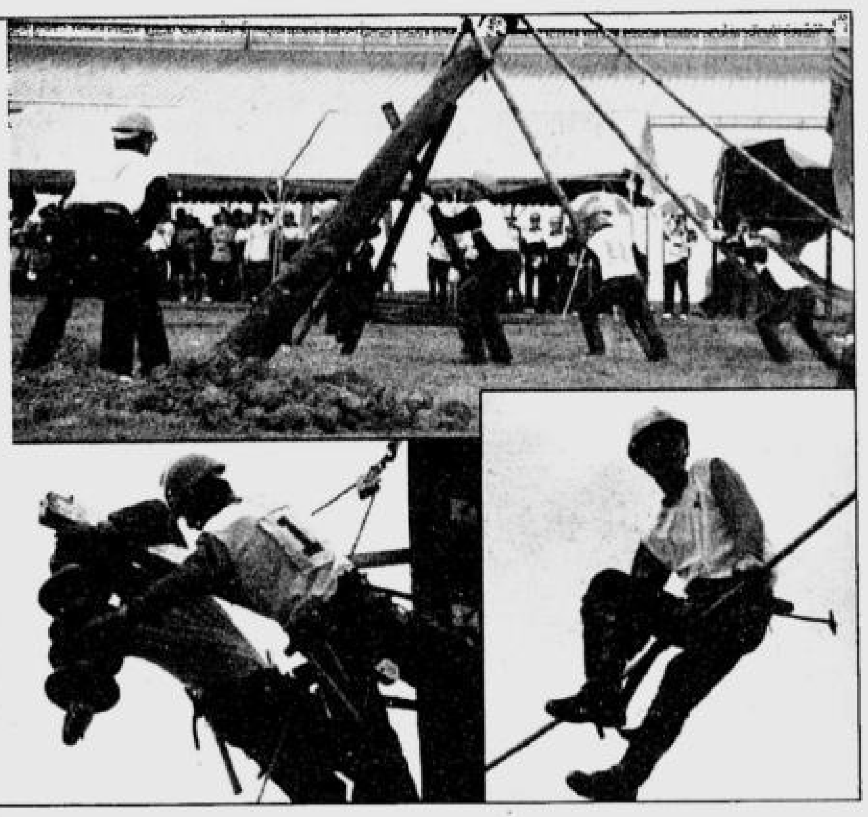
Any transaction entered into by **Mr. Sorio** for and in behalf of **BSB Junrose Autoparts Corporation** will not be honored effective the above mentioned date.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI - Nov. 18, 2007)

TRANSCO'S BEST LINEMEN GATHER AT NATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION

The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) recently held its 2nd Lineman's Skills Competition, more popularly known as the Lineman's Rodeo in San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan. The 3-day event featured the "best of the best" TransCo linemen nationwide in a competition, training and show especially designed to boost linemen's technical proficiency, competence and safety consciousness. TransCo's cream of the crop battled it out in 10 event categories including (clockwise) Pole Erection, Conductor Riding, and Pole Dressing.



Jehova's Witnesses' meet

JEHOVA'S WITNESSESS INVITE ITS members to a series of convention, which starts Nov. 23-25 at the Metro Manila Assembly Hall, 1140 Quirino Highway, Novaliches Q.C. Manila Circuit 2 and 3 delegates are expected to attend the three-day gathering.

Titled "Follow the Christ", the convention will be held in 56 cities throughout the country and programs will be held in different dialects. Sign language will also be used in Metro Manila and Cagayan de Oro.

Jehovah's Witnesses number over 6,700,000 worldwide and function in 236 lands and territories. It is organized into nearly 100,000 congregations, all of which work under the direction of a central governing body located in Brooklyn, New York. For more information, visit www.jw-media.org.

Kamikazee rocks St. Joseph

THE ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE OF QUEZON City will hold a nerve wrecking and electrifying show entitled "Kamikazee Live in Concert," on December 1, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. This concert is for the benefit of the St. Joseph College Alumni Association. Other special performers include New Direction, Sundae Cone Delights, Castration of Jolo, and Out of Space. For more information please call 426-3380 or 416-5198.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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loc. 514, 516;
899-4425;

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Makati:
892-5578; 811-4361;
811-4370

Kalaw:
523-5570 loc. 115 or 116

Megamall:
635-0219; 635-0220

People, Events & Products

Echocardiography Postgraduate Course

ST. LUKE'S HEART INSTITUTE WILL BE HOLDING AN ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY Postgraduate Course on Dec. 7 and 8 at the 2/F Conference Room, St. Luke's Medical Center. Topics will cover basic principles of echocardiography, valvular heart disease, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathy, congenital heart disease, and pericardial disease, cardiac tumors and diseases of the great vessels. For details about the postgraduate course, call 723-0101/0301 ext. 5402.

Promil Kid and Promil Pre-School's Loads of Prizes promo winners

PROMIL KID AND PROMIL PRE-SCHOOL RECENTLY CONCLUDED THE exciting run of its Loads of Prizes Promo where 60 brand new cellphones and free instant cellphone loads were given away. Six lucky Promil Kid and Promil Pre-School buyers each won a top-of-the-line Nokia N95 cellphone during the weekly raffle held under the supervision of a DOH-BFAD representative. They are Alma Amado from Matina, Davao; Sheila Bermejo from Taytay, Rizal; Pauline Burgos from Iloilo Citiy; Rommel Cabiles from Antipolo City; Phirsa Castañares from Cebu; and Sharon Galera from Baguio City. Aside from the winners of Nokia N95 cellphones, 54 more raffle winners each received a Nokia 6020 cellphone, while thousands of Promil Kid and Promil Pre-School buyers also got instant prizes in the form of free Globe prepaid cellphone loads. Every purchase of a 180-gram box of either Promil Kid or Promil Pre-School entitled them to P10 worth of load; a 400-gram can was equivalent to a P20-load; a 900-gram can earned them P30 of prepaid load; and those who purchased a 1.6kg can instantly got P50 worth of Globe prepaid load. All purchases gave the participants the chance to qualify in the weekly raffle where 10 brand new cellphones were at stake. They simply had to text in the entry codes printed on the Loads of Prizes stickers found on their Promil Kid or Promil Pre-School packs. This successful promotion is Promil Kid and Promil Pre-School's way of showing their gratitude to the loyal customers who have made Promil Kid and Promil Pre-School their partners in nurturing their children.

A merry Hanford and a merry Xmas!

IT IS THE MERRIEST TIME OF THE YEAR ONCE AGAIN AND HANFORD starts early to share and celebrate the Christmas spirit by offering a number of promotions for its loyal customers. Hanford products alone could be enough to have a merry and a comforting Christmas, but in addition, Hanford had prepared to give away special gift items fit for everyone who wants more than just comfort! For every Hanford Men purchase worth 300 pesos, SM Taytay and Isetann Recto shoppers can take advantage of a free "Whiff Cologne" while Hanford shoppers at Landmark Trinoma can take home a free "Hanford Talc" or "Hanford Cologne". Another good news for customers who purchase Hanford Men items for a minimum amount of 500 pesos, can avail a limited edition Hanford Laptop Backpack for only 300 pesos. The Hanford Laptop Backpack is hip and cool and especially designed for the trendy and modern young professional, who is always on the go. This promo is available at all SM Outlets from November and all Robinson's Department Stores from December until supplies last. Meanwhile, Robinson's Department Store outlets customers can Box It All Up as they purchase any regular priced Hanford Men item. These Hanford Boxes will be useful as the yuletide season approaches, no more headaches in packing those gifts up! Hanford wishes everyone a merry and comfortable Christmas in advance!

Glitz at the 7th World Bazaar Festival

WATCH OUT FOR A CHRISTMAS RIDE TO FAME AS Worldbex Services International (WSI) features celebrity exhibitors who will showcase their niftiest products for the Yuletide season at the "Celebrity Village" of the 7th World Bazaar Festival, slated on Dec. 6-16, at the World Trade Center open from 12noon to 10 p.m. from Monday to Thursday and 10 a.m. to 12mn from Friday to Sunday. Meet and greet your favorite Kapamilya stars like Judy Ann Santos, Toni Gonzaga, Angel Jacob, Christine Bersola, Phoemela Baranda , Michelle Madrigal, Jodie Sta. Maria, Aiza Marquez, Gladys Reyes and Christopher Roxas, Aiza Seguerra, Mickey Ferriols and Archie Alemania, Mich Dulce, Raphael Martinez, and Bianca Lapus as they provide all kind of products and merchandise for all kinds of needs. Proceeds of The Celebrity Village will go to the Virlanie Foundation a private non-sectarian child caring institution in Metro Manila that operates 12 residential homes providing shelter, food, education and love to over 1,000 disadvantaged children. The 11-day Christmas extravaganza will also highlight the latest quirks in fashion, books, music, handicrafts, jewelry, paper products, car accessories, home furnishing, telecommunication gadgets, among others, that are available in the local and international market. Proceeds of the 7th World Bazaar Festival will go to the ABS-CBN Foundation Inc, a non-stock, non-profit organization that undertakes rescue and relief activities like first aid-training, rehabilitation, critical incidence stress debriefing, medical missions and outreach projects to those who are in need. For more inquiries, please call WSI at tel. no. (02)531-6350/74 or 534-3615 or fax (02)533-2026 or e-mail at info@worldbex.com

PAG holds 10th annual convention

IN CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL WEEK FOR THE GIFTED, THE Philippine Association for the Gifted will be holding its 10th annual convention-workshop on Nov. 28 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City, with the theme "Teaching the Game of High Achievement." Dr. Maureen Neihart, a renowned clinical child psychologist, author and lecturer with more than 25 years of experience in counseling high-ability children, will be the plenary speaker. The convention-workshop will run from 8a.m. until 5 p.m. For inquiries, please call the convention secretariat at 687-1122 and cellphone number 0927-5979103 or email pagifted@yahoo.com. More information can be accessed at www.freewebs.com/pagconvention2007.

JTI launches CII campaign in RP

JT INTERNATIONAL (JTI), THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST MANUFACturer of tobacco products, has embarked on a major campaign to provide specific information to consumers who might misinterpret brand elements displayed on JTI cigarette packs. The Consumer Information Initiative (CII) campaign advises smokers not to assume that a cigarette brand is less harmful because of its taste, strength, color or because of descriptive terms like "lights" and "mild". The information will be communicated to adult smokers via information cards at points of sale for tobacco products as well as advertisements in national newspapers. "Adults who choose to smoke need to have relevant information on the risks involved," JTI spokesperson Hamish Moore said. "JTI is committed to being open and transparent about its products and this campaign demonstrates that commitment." JTI is a subsidiary of Japan Tobacco Inc which manufactures internationally recognized cigarette brands including Camel, Winston, Mild Seven and Salem. With headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, JTI has offices in about 60 countries outside of Japan, with 23,000 employees, and sales activities in over 120 countries.

RP English teachers in demand abroad

THE GREAT DEMAND FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS WORLD-WIDE IS increasing at a rapid phase that it now seems improbable for traditional English speaking countries to be able to supply enough teachers to satisfy the said global urgency. ECI Communications Inc. (8982196) official TOEFL IBT Testing Center in the country and considered a pioneering institution for English as a Second Language (ESL) in the past 14 years, revealed that Philippine teachers in English are highly sought after in foreign countries for their English proficiency, following their intensive TESOL training program. The ECI center's Teacher Cathy Malon said that TOEFL and TOEIC reviews have opened for English teachers seeking work abroad, and that a special "Teacher's Installment Plan" for said training courses are now available. Free info/data may also be accessed via website: www.ecitesol.com and e-mail: ecitesol@ yahoo.com

FTE WITH MICROBAN PRODUCT LAUNCHING

WIERIG
FTE
xy Floor Coati

After several months of preparation, Wierig Industrial Products, Inc. recently launched FTE with Microban, the first Anti-bacterial Floor Technology Enhancement in the Philippines. It is an anti-bacterial floor coating that inhibits the growth of moulds, mildew and other bacterias. The successful event was held last Oct. 24 at The Peninsula Manila, Makati City where number of participants from pharmaceutical, hospitals,industrial, food processing companies and food chains had attended. Shown are (left) Lawrence Larkins and Tom Ellefsen, during the unveiling of Floor Technology Enhancement with Microban "A step to a cleaner future... Today"

The hair color that's long-lasting and gentle

FOR CENTURIES, GINSENG EXTRACT HAS BEEN TRUSTED TO RENEW vitality in hair. It nourishes, revitalizes and brings back glossy, healthy sheen and helps provide longer lasting color. This ingredient is a vital part of Bigen Silk Touch, the newest product from Bigen's line of hair color-related cosmetics. Aside from its ginseng extract, what sets apart Bigen Silk Touch cream from other hair color products is silk protein, which gives your hair silk-like shine and touch. It has long-lasting color, soothing floral scent and perfect-gray coverage. The product has also been carefully formulated for Oriental hair.What's more, Bigen Silk Touch is gentle on the scalp. Once applied on your head, Bigen's tiny color pigments can penetrate deeply into the hair shafts. Once your hair dries, the cuticles naturally close and retain the new color. Bigen's easy-comb quality also makes for smooth hair-color application. Bigen hair products have always been a standout in today's market because these have been designed for the Oriental woman to wear her hair like the loveliest garland. That is why many of today's top stars in Asia use Bigen Silk Touch to give them the hair quality and look they need on the screen, women like Jesseca Liu. The Malaysian actress has become a familiar face, thanks to the cable TV show MediaCorp, and of course... Bigen. You can choose from the ten vibrant colors of Bigen Silk Touch Cream Color. Available in leading supermarkets, drugstores and beauty shops nationwide.

Stellar at the 3rd Retails Careers and Services Job Fair

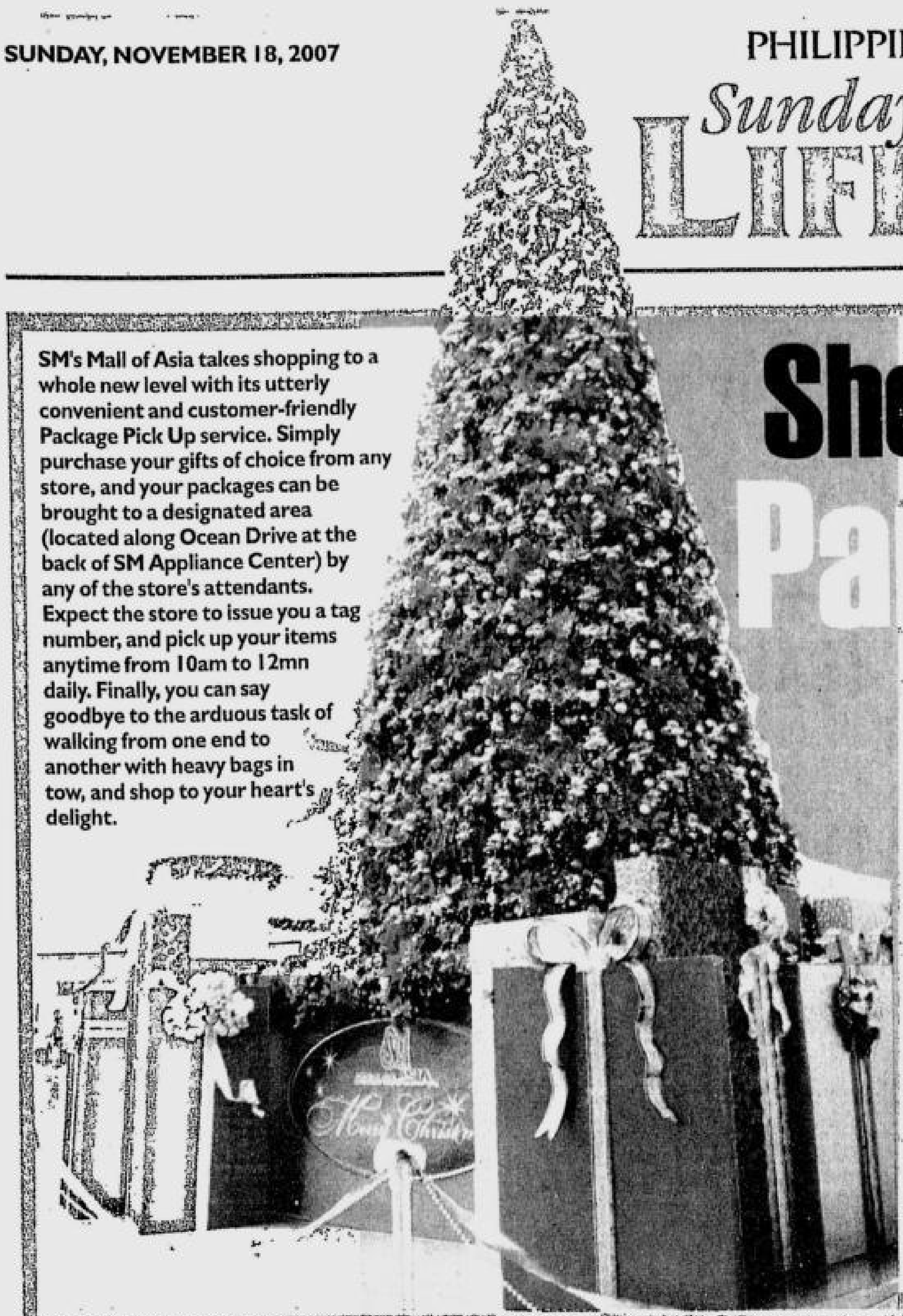
STELLAR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS JOINED THE 3RD RETAILS CAREERS and Services Job Fair at the Trinoma Activity Center. Stellar provided a one-stop application and information booth to process applications for customer service representatives and other positions within the reputable company. Around 40 companies, mostly from the call centre industry processed applications during the two-day event. Stellar offers an exciting and diverse range of career opportunities within its call centres and corporate areas. The company delivers solutions for some of the world's largest and most respected companies through its network of contact centres across Australia, UK, USA, Canada and the Philippines. It is an industry leader with credibility based on value, consistency and excellence. For more information on Stellar Global Solutions go to www.stellargsp.com.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE
Contributing Editor **Agoo Azcuna-Bengzon**

Shopper's Paradise

Photos by Ryan Lim and Romy Homillada

Whatever your accessories addiction—be it fancy footwear or cool carry-alls—Mall of Asia's fashion shops are sure to get you in fine form for the holiday season

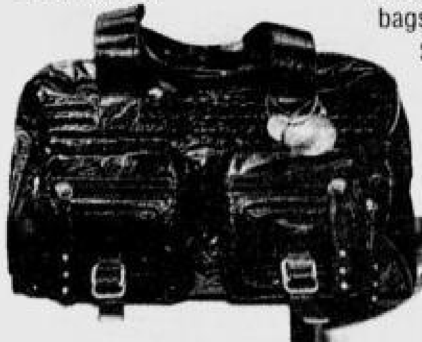


SM's Mall of Asia takes shopping to a whole new level with its utterly convenient and customer-friendly Package Pick Up service. Simply purchase your gifts of choice from any store, and your packages can be brought to a designated area (located along Ocean Drive at the back of SM Appliance Center) by any of the store's attendants. Expect the store to issue you a tag number, and pick up your items anytime from 10am to 12mn daily. Finally, you can say goodbye to the arduous task of walking from one end to another with heavy bags in tow, and shop to your heart's delight.

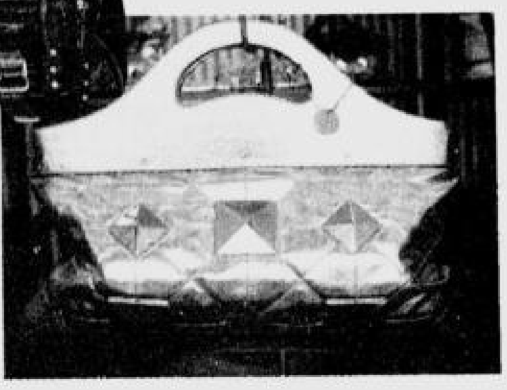
New York Minute: LULU

Add a pop of color to your outfit with Lulu's pretty and colorful bags.

Straight from the fashion capital of the world, Lulu NYC has come to the delight of young trendsetters with a sampling of the hippest bags around for you and all your fab girlfriends. Inspiration from the richest cultures lends ethnic flair to these fabulously detailed, and vibrantly-hued creations. Craving for a Chanel 2.55 or a Marc Jacobs Stam but don't quite want to dish out that much moolah, then Lulu's quilted handbags are your fashion salvation. Take Lulu's cheery printed totes out for a day of shopping, or their romantic handbags to lunch with the girls, or their Studio 54 inspired metallic clutches to a night on the town and you're sure to be the freshest thing on the fashion front.



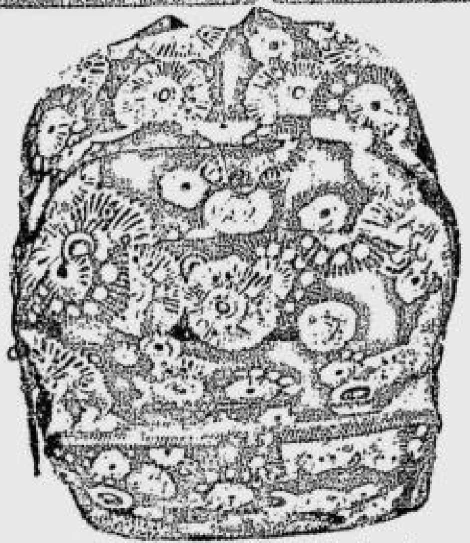
Update your office wear with a roomy shiny leather bag.



Silver studs and crystal accents are what make Lulu's bags extraordinary.

Bag Lady

Bag-a-holics unite as Mall of Asia's hip shops offer the best handheld wonders for the discerning style-setter.



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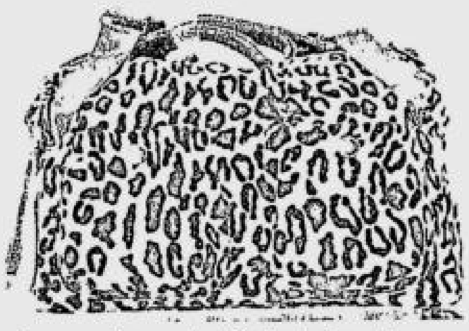
Anne Bella



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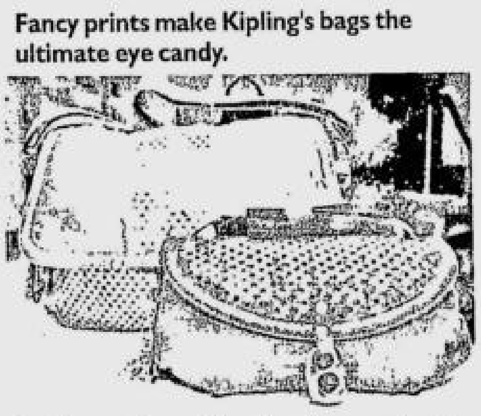
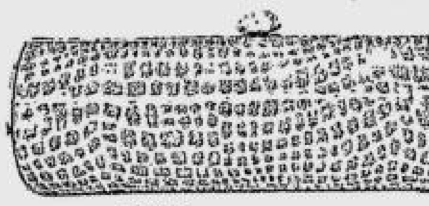
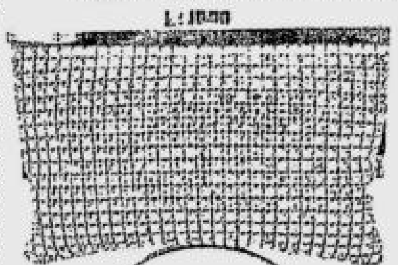
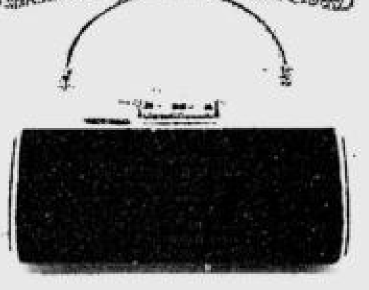


Quality perforated leather bags are both functional and stylish.

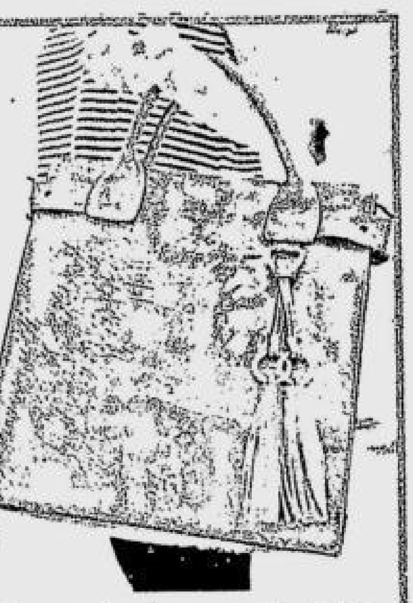
Little Wonders: CMG Bags







Formal evenings call for velvet clutches, gold and crystal accents.



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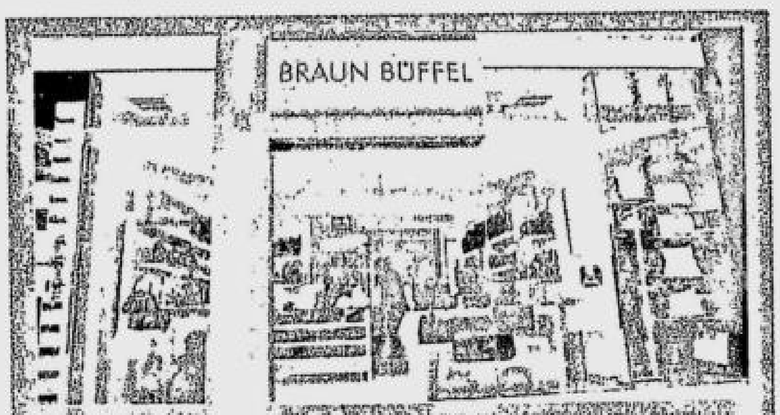
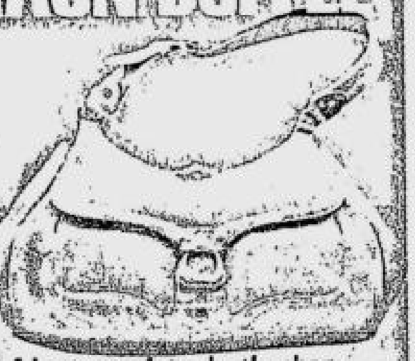


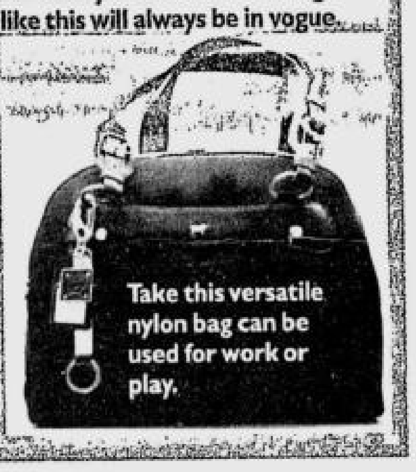
Fine Finds: BRAUN BUFFEL

There are [illegible] and there are [illegible] that [illegible] a [illegible]. This was Johann Braun's philosophy when he created the first Braun Buffel bag in 1887 in Kirn, Germany. Over the years, the brand has held true to their promise of excellent craftsmanship, reliability and functionality and at the same time evolving with the current trends. At first glance the style and shapes seem conservative, suited for corporate types and serious business people. But upon close scrutiny the bags are noticeably crafted, sturdy and have classic design that transcends trends.

Anne Bella



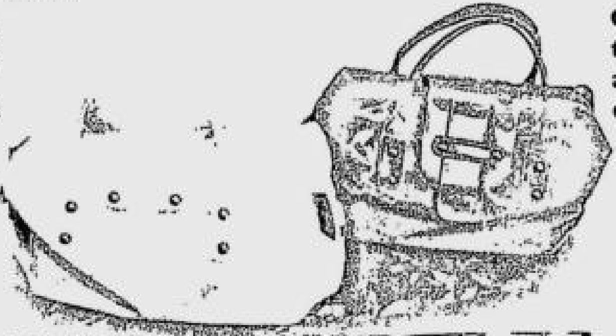
A buttery soft tan leather bag like this will always be in vogue.



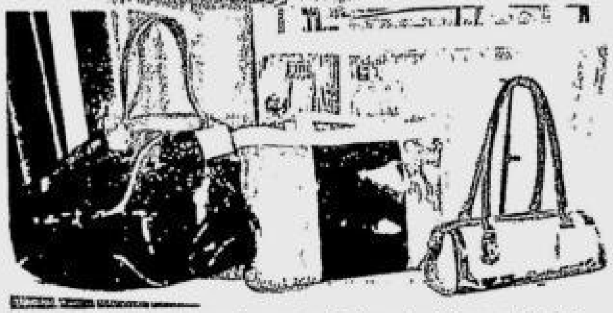
Take this versatile nylon bag can be used for work or play.

Pinoy Pride: HUSH BY ARANAZ

Our answer to the Lulu Guinesses and Kate Spades of the world, model-turned-bag-designer Amina Aranaz's newest hub-Hush by Aranaz-promises shoppers the same intricate accents she is known for, plus more. In addition to the exquisite evening bags-feathered, beaded, and embroidered creations-Hush by Aranaz will also carry more casual takes to complete any fashionista's weekend garb, plus a generous helping of oversized beach bags for your next tropical sojourn. Amina's ability to take indigenous fare like capiz and abaca and transform them into 21st century fashion makes her a truly one-of-a-kind designer. And if you're looking for the perfect pasalubong for stylish relatives who have everything, then look no further than this gorgeous Manila-born shop.



Oversized bags like these allow you to tote a whole lot of your essentials.



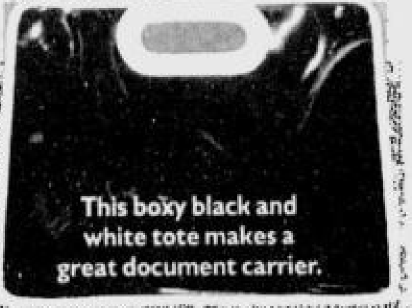
Fashionistas will surely get a kick out of these bright patent finds.

Hush by Aranaz offers unique finds like this elegant crochet shoulder bag.

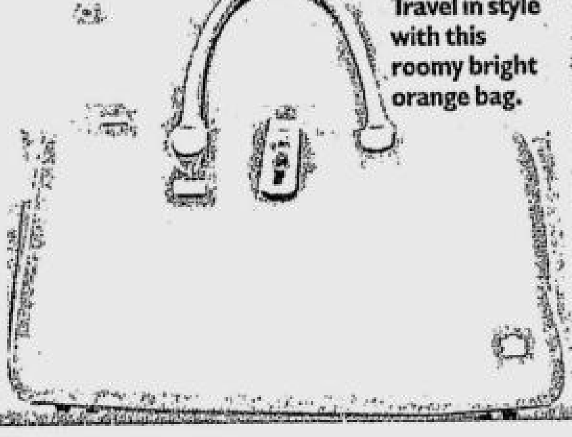
Modern Love: LA BAGAGERIE

The French have been known to produce the best products, and La Bagagerie bags are no exception. Jean Marlaix launched La Bagagerie in 1954 on the Champs-Elysees in Paris. Jean's casual-hip designs, playful colors and supple fabrics make it unique, and it didn't take long for the fashion press to take notice. Soon, the bags were featured in the biggest fashion titles (Elle, Vogue, Marie-Claire) and became the bag to have for stylish women. Today, the company is run by Jean's son Frederic Marlaix, who works closely with fashion editors to ensure that the bag's designs are up-to-date. Two collections are designed each year, consisting of about one hundred bags. These days, the bags offer practical design features like special pockets for mobile phones and PDA's. Perfect for the woman on the go.

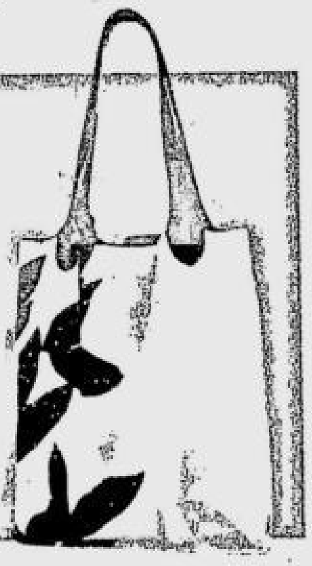
Anne Bella



This boxy black and white tote makes a great document carrier.



Travel in style with this roomy bright orange bag.



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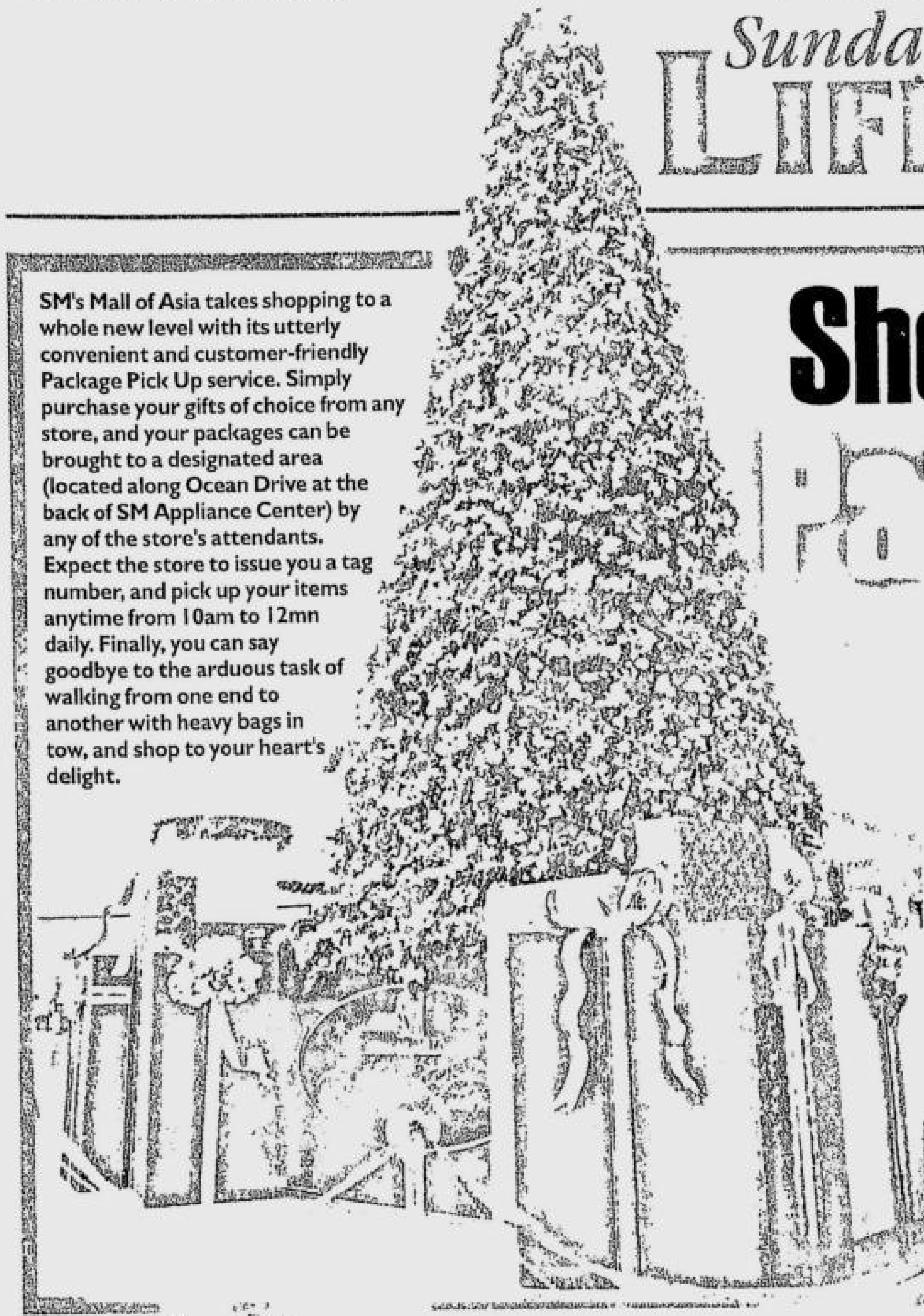
Contributing Editor Agoo Azcuna-Bengzon

Shopper's Paradise



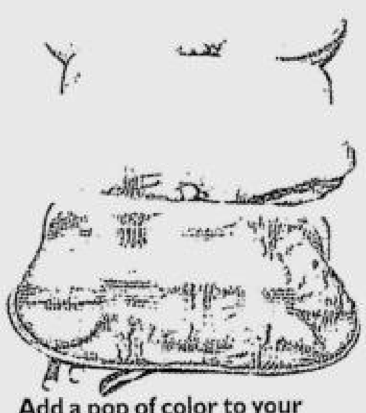
SM's Mall of Asia takes shopping to a whole new level with its utterly convenient and customer-friendly Package Pick Up service. Simply purchase your gifts of choice from any store, and your packages can be brought to a designated area (located along Ocean Drive at the back of SM Appliance Center) by any of the store's attendants. Expect the store to issue you a tag number, and pick up your items anytime from 10am to 12mn daily. Finally, you can say goodbye to the arduous task of walking from one end to another with heavy bags in tow, and shop to your heart's delight.

Photos by Ryan Lim and Romy Homillada

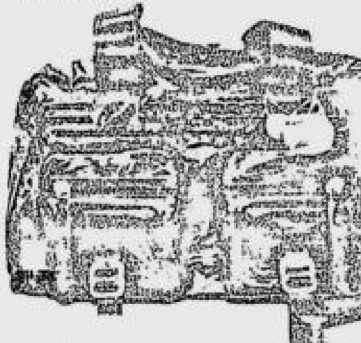
[illegible]

New York Minute: LULU

Straight from the fashion capital of the world, Lulu NYC has come to the delight of young trendsetters with a sampling of the hippest bags around for you and all your fab girlfriends. Inspiration from the richest cultures lends ethnic flair to these fabulously detailed, and vibrantly-hued creations. Craving for a Chanel 2.55 or a Marc Jacobs Stam but don't quite want to dish out that much moolah, then Lulu's quilted handbags are your fashion salvation. Take Lulu's cheery printed totes out for a day of shopping, or their romantic handbags to lunch with the girls, or their Studio 54 inspired metallic clutches to a night on the town and you're sure to be the freshest thing on the fashion front.



Add a pop of color to your outfit with Lulu's pretty and colorful bags.



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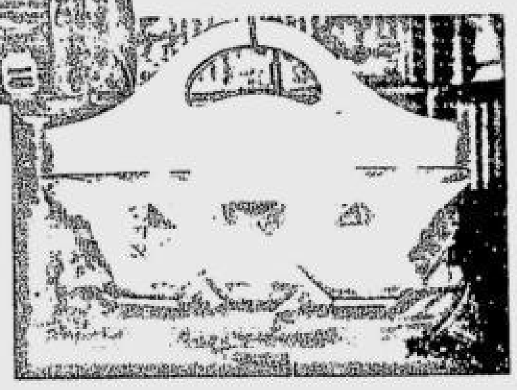

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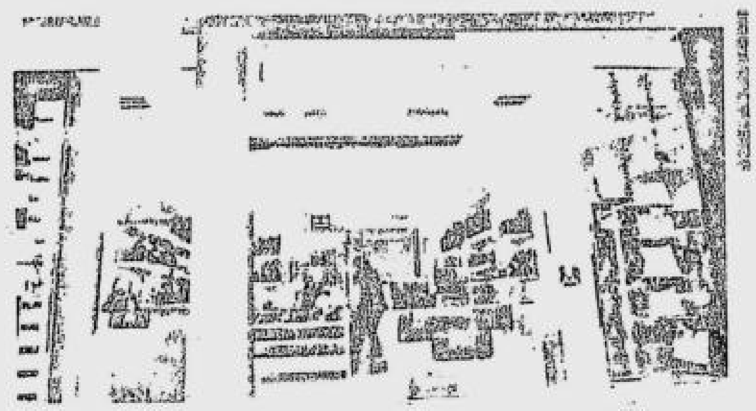

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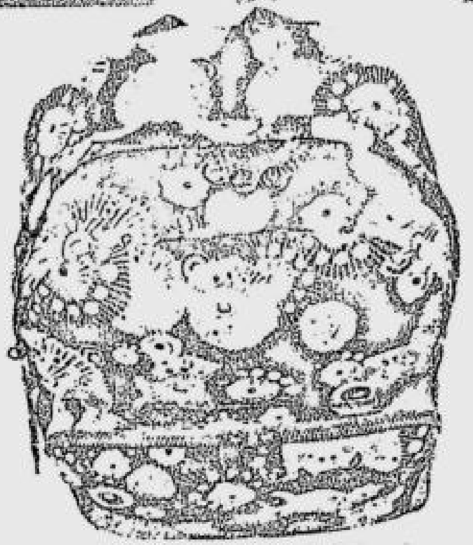

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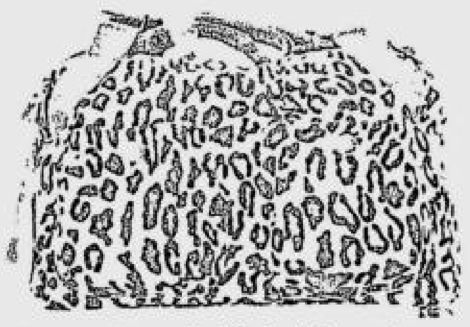

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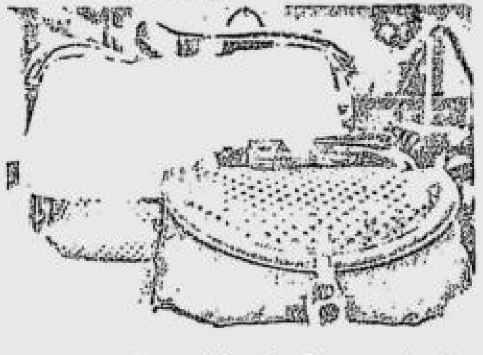

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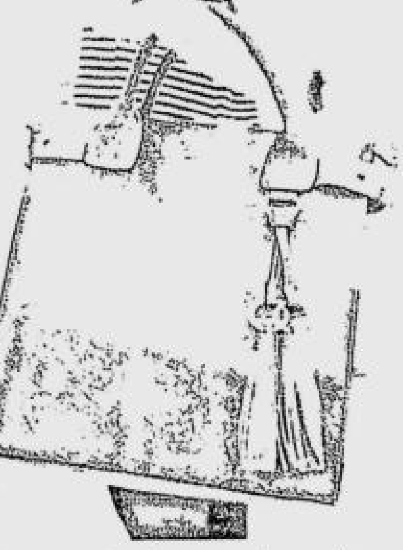

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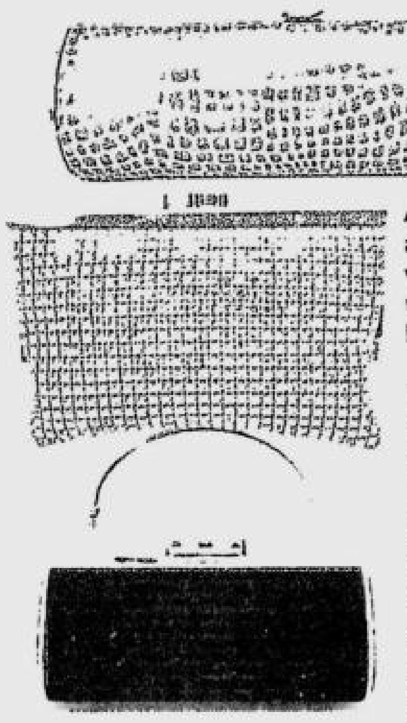

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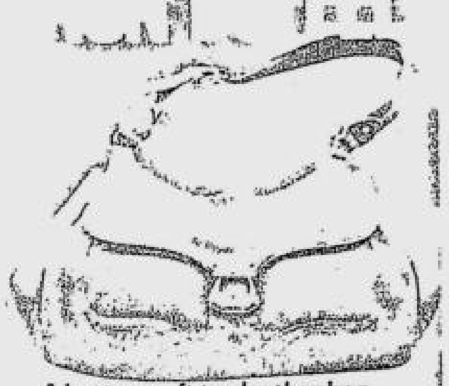

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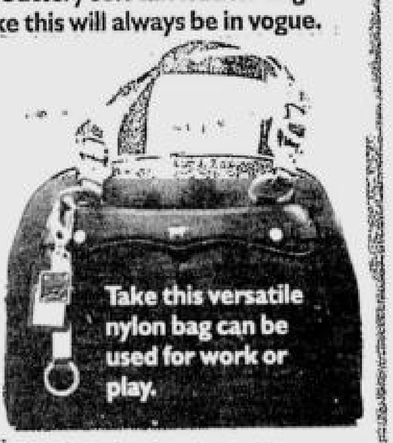

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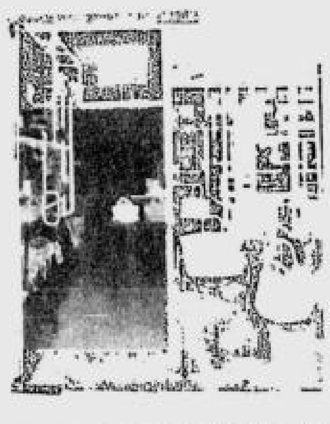

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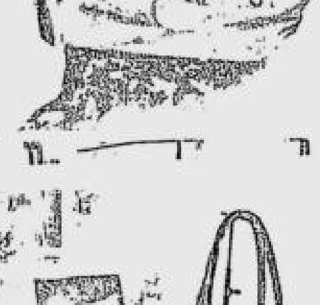

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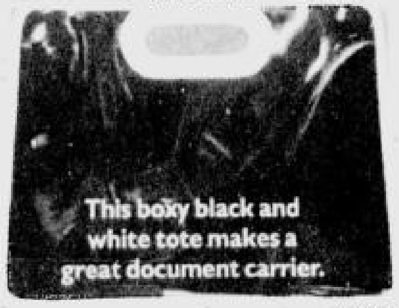

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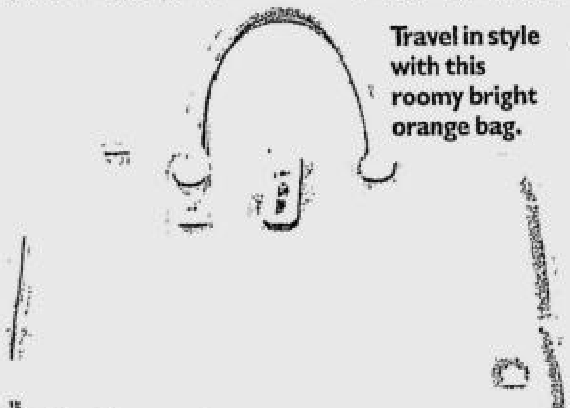

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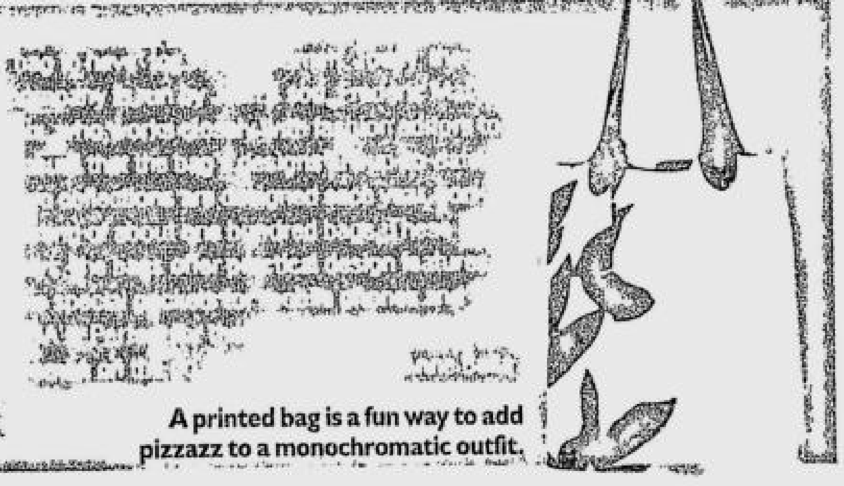

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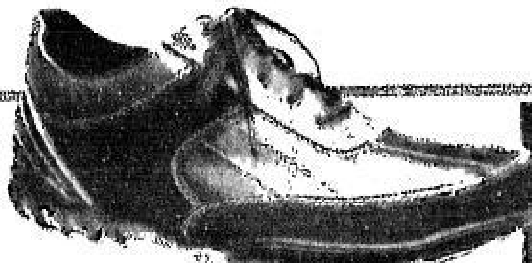
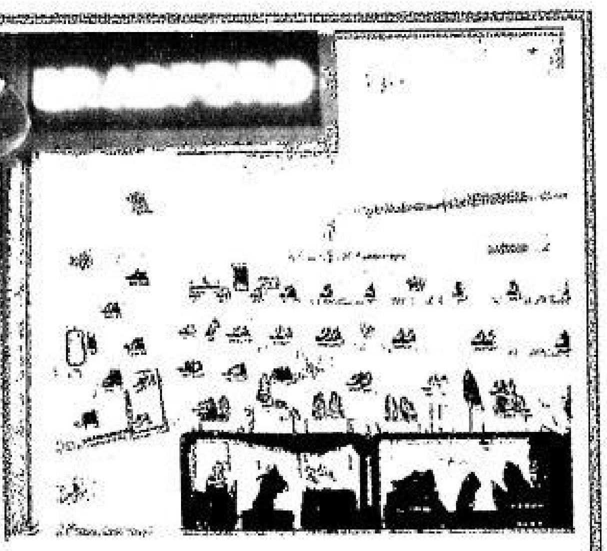


Bradford

Have you always dreamt about being taller? Have you had fantasies of being that tall, powerful guy that guys and girls look up to? Well, you can be taller right now, without any surgery, or obvious platform shoes. Bradford shoes specializes in creating comfortable, fashionable shoes that instantly make the wearer up to four inches taller! Their exclusive AddHeight technology is a built-in structure in their shoes that adds inches, without any obvious increase in heel height and without any discomfort for the wearer. To make your height increase consistent for all your events, Bradford has shoes for every occasion, from formal dressy shoes, to athletic, sporty sneaks. Move up the ladder, and be in the height of style, with Bradford shoes.

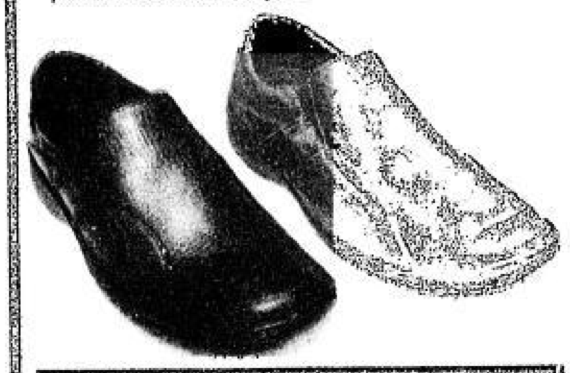


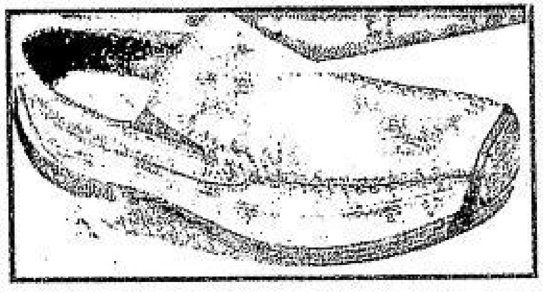
FOOT WORK

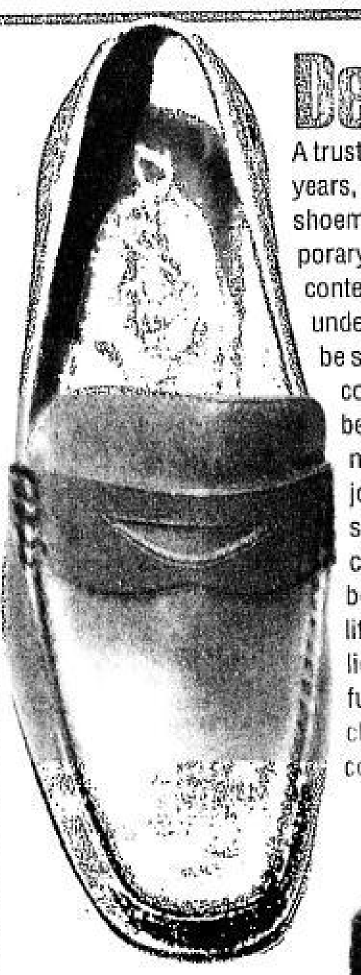
Classic styles and timeless designs stand the test of time. This selection of trusted brands will be wardrobe staples for men of style for years to come.

Hush Puppies

The first brand to develop casual shoes in 1958, Hush Puppies marked a new era in shoes with their relaxed, classic designs. Their trademark pigskin suede, coupled with a crepe sole, produced breathable, soft shoes that are both stylish and comfortable. Their breakthrough worry-free suede technology makes shoes scuff, stain and water resistant, making shoe care a breeze. Their zeroG innovation combines a shock-absorbing mid-sole with athletic construction, making every pair so light, they are almost weightless! And for the adventurous, outdoorsy type, Hush Puppies now offers water-proof shoes with sealed seams and waterproof leather! Hush Puppies makes it easy to live the life you want, in complete comfort and style.

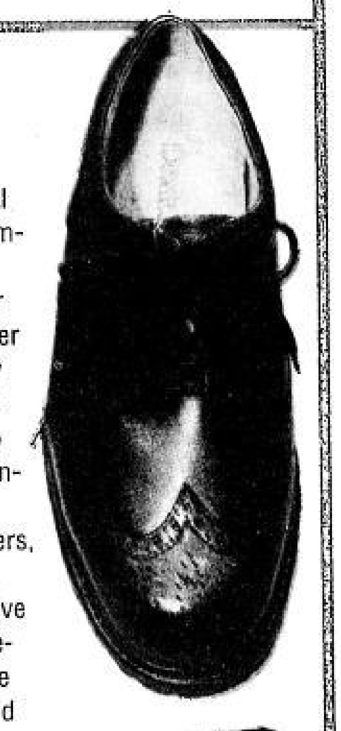






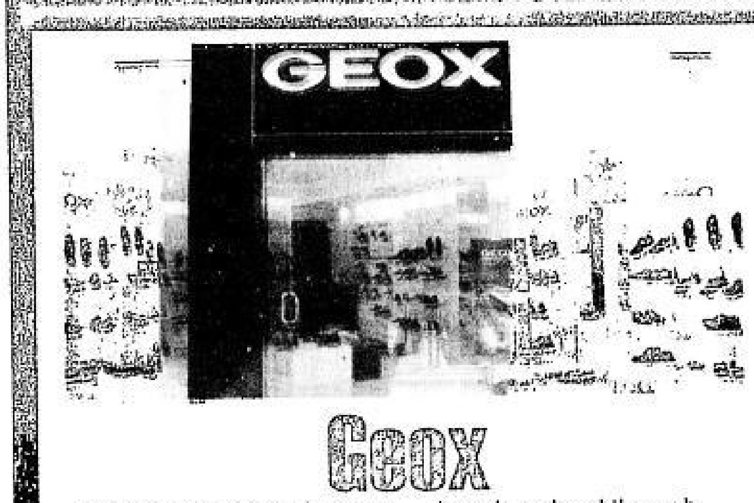
Dexter

A trusted American brand for over 50 years, Dexter shoes combine traditional shoemaking craftsmanship with contemporary fashion sense to come up with contemporary, classic designs. Dexter understands that comfort should never be sacrificed for fashion, and so they continually develop and deliver the best in modern shoe technology to make quality shoes that you will enjoy wearing. Their selection of t stylish dress shoes, timeless loafers, classic boots and their trademark bowling shoes, lets you play and live life in complete comfort. Dexter believes in letting you enjoy life to the fullest, and with Dexter's active and classic styles, you can enjoy life in complete comfort and style.



Florsheim

A trusted brand since 1892, Florsheim shoes have come to represent high quality, excellent craftsmanship and classic styles. As an iconic shoe brand for men, Florsheim is a brand that all men from different generations take pride in wearing. The classic Riva style, first introduced in 1979, is still the best-selling style almost thirty years later, proving that Florsheim shoes can transcend seasons and trends. Dads can share the Florsheim tradition with their sons, knowing that more than just superb quality, they are sharing in over a century old shoe tradition among men from all over the world - Florsheim's superb quality and timeless elegance.



Geox

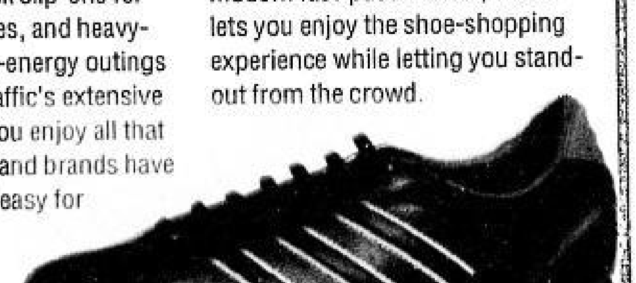
Geox Respira shoes give new meaning to the phrase "cool shoes". Living in a tropical country presents unique shoe concerns, one of the most common being sweaty feet. This was the very reason Geox shoes were created, to give you comfort and let air circulate within your shoes. Italian owner and inventor Mario Moretti Polegato first came across this problem while working in a vineyard, since then, he has created breakthrough shoes that miraculously keep your feet dry even in hot and humid environments. Geox Respira shoes have breakthrough soles with little holes in them that let the air in, while incredibly keeping water and moisture out. They also have a special insert that absorbs moisture and perspiration to keep your feet dry. More than just letting you stay comfortable in your shoes, Geox makes sure you stay dry and infection-free while strutting the streets in great Italian style.

FUNK PHENOMENON

Do you want a little more spunk in your footwear? Do you enjoy sleek styles with modern twists? Have fun and experiment with these hip and happening shoe stores!

Traffic

For total shoe freedom and choices, Traffic carries several brands from all over the world to help you make your own shoe statement. From funky boots to sleek sneaks, Traffic's modern and hip collection lets you have that ultra-modern designer shoe look for less. Traffic understands that the modern man needs shoe choices, the freedom to experiment and experience different shoe styles to express himself. Traffic offers the perfect sleek slip-ons for casual jeans and tees, and heavy-duty boots for high-energy outings and adventures. Traffic's extensive shoe choices lets you enjoy all that the different styles and brands have to offer. It makes it easy for you to look good, while staying true to your identity and your budget! In this modern fast-paced world, Traffic lets you enjoy the shoe-shopping experience while letting you stand-out from the crowd.



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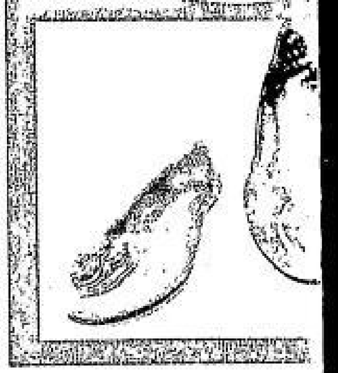

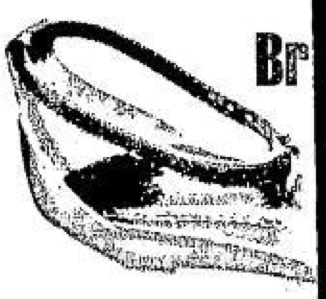

Br

Clarks England is recognized over for its admirable commit comfort, innovation, and styl wide range of footwear-rangi dressy sandals to casual loaf reer pumps-has long provide lovers with comfy yet chic op any occasion. Extremely dura lightweight, their shoes make down the city or hiking through the country extreme ly fun. With a history that dates back to 1825 England

Take your look to new hei Nine West, a perennial fa amongst the style-savvy. magazine editor with thei forward takes-covetable the hottest runway styles from towering platforms blocked wonders. Or be t

Model Behavi

Forwar

Rule the boardroom in fashion forward stance with quality leather shoes from Forward and Scoop. Witness the reinvention of the classic black pump or see what a sprinkling of style can do to your strappy sandals. Get the latest styles from the best foreign brands like Donald J. Pliner and Madeline from the States and Laura d'Este from Italy from this stylish hub. The brand's in-house brand likewise offers a well-edited selection of shoe imported from Asia, Europe US. But don't leave your oth parts bare-Forward & Scoop ries stylish accessories mad

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e Bliss

With Mall of Asia's treasure trove of the best shoe brands, assembling a stylish wardrobe has never been this easy, or fun!

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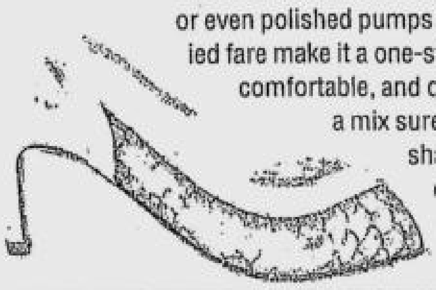
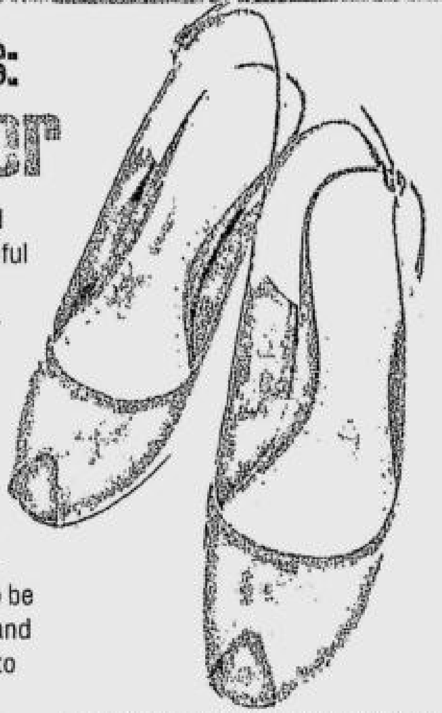
Well-heeled: CMG Shoes

One fashion rule those addicted to fashion live by is that one simply can't have enough shoes. Thankfully, CMG's free-flowing assortment of international labels-Lewre from Malaysia, Unisa from the UK, BCBG Girls from the US, and it's own chic in-house brand-has always come to our stylish rescue. Be it uber-glamorous bejeweled stilettos for chi chi soirees, or casual flats for relaxed weekends, or even polished pumps for work, CMG's varied fare make it a one-stop-shop for chic, comfortable, and quality footwear. With a mix sure to do Carrie Bradshaw proud, it's no wonder shoe aficionados swear by this multi-brand boutique.

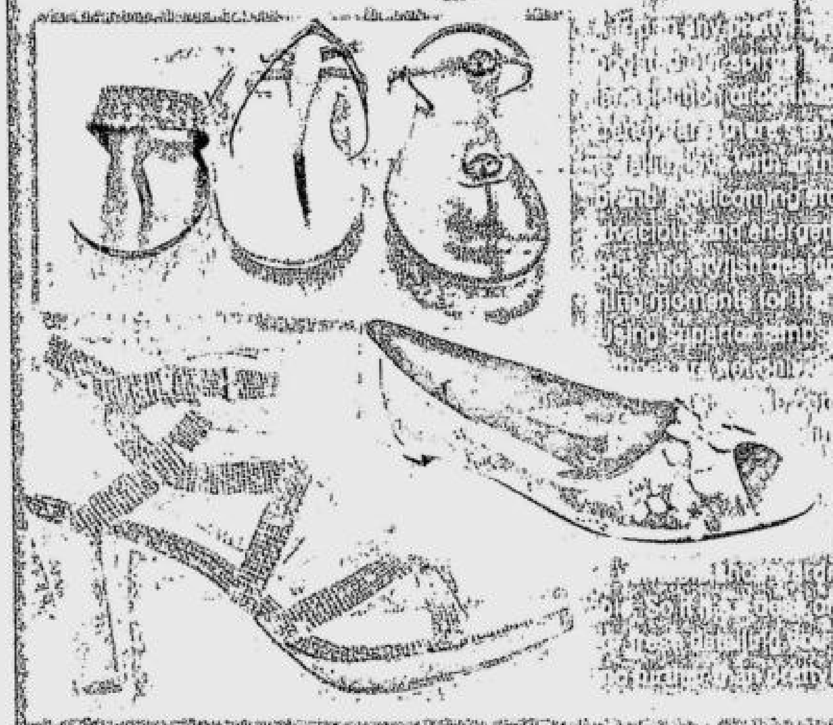


Soothing Soles: Naturalizer



It is perhaps what others would consider an urban myth: beautiful yet comfortable shoes. While many of the stylish set have resigned themselves to a life of pinched toes for the sake of fashion, those who have discovered Naturalizer have always had it all. A perfect mix of trendy, runway-relevant design with classic styling, Naturalizer shoes are fun enough to be fashionable, but still polished and timeless, and durable enough to last for years. Indulge in their leather pumps, sexy knee-high boots, or patent platforms, all guilt-free courtesy of the perfect fit of Naturalizer shoes that guarantees to keep your footsies happy and in great shape. Wear these feminine concoctions to work or play and you're guaranteed to still be standing tall at the end of the day.

Perfect Match: prettyFIT



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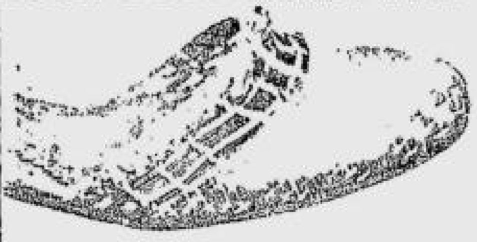
tish Cool: Clarks



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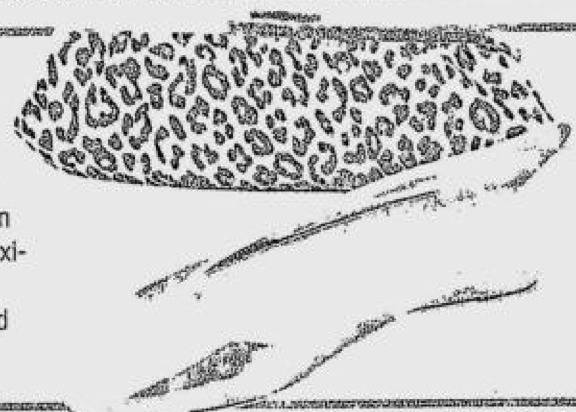
you're sure to get your recommended allowance of classic British style with this covetable brand. What's more, with their hip assortment of dressy and casual shoes for guys, a trip to this store will be just as fun for the men in your life.

Walking on Air: Aerosoles

If you've ever been asked to make the impossible choice between form and function when it comes to footwear, i.e. style or comfort, then you know how distressing it must be. Which is why finding the perfect pair of stylish duds that won't leave your footsies in pain is really a cause for celebration. Find these modern miracles at Aerosoles. By using the most cushioned insoles, the softest leather and suede, a completely flexible and stitched-together construction technique, Aerosoles creates footwear magic. Drawing inspiration from the best of European design, you're guaranteed distinctive and on-trend styles that you'll look forward to wearing every day of the week.



Fashion High: Nine West

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the ball in crystal-encrusted numbers that's sure to complement any cocktail or evening ensemble. If you're craving a dose of casual beach-ready or weekend-worthy fare, then Nine West's espadrilles and flats are your ticket to looking great while feeling fab. An on-trend selection of bags and evening clutches, in addition to a wide variety of shoes, make any trip to this chic haven a feast for the senses.

Trendy Takes: Schu

If you're the kind of girl who has to have a shoe to match every outfit, then Schu's colorful array of fashionable footwear is just the thing you. With design centers in Milan and Paris, Schu has made it ever so easy to make a walking fashion statement. What's wonderful is that they've got something for every aspect of the urban denizen's life, be it dressy pumps for work, sexy stilettos for cocktails or clubbing, or chic sandals or feminine ballet flats for chill-out weekends. Fallen in love with a particular style? Well, go ahead and grab every color because with Schu's affordable prices, it's not hard to shop for more than a pair. Soon, you'll have a closet full of Schu shoes to grace every occasion.

Brazilian Beauty: Via Uno

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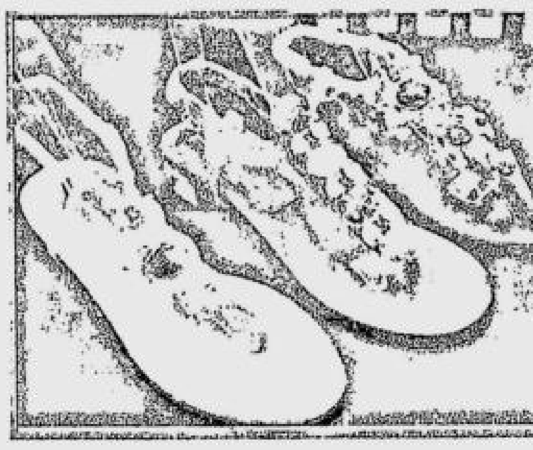
Party Central: Heelz Hobo



Le Donne's high fashion sister brand, Heelz Hobo, has gained quite a following amongst the city's party girls. With couture-like detailing reflected in gorgeously embellished heels, sparkling bejeweled straps, and luxe satin, Heelz Hobo stilettos represent the ultimate in glam. Whenever grand entrances are demanded and lasting impressions desired, then Heelz Hobo's statement-making heels are key. Of course, no high-voltage ensemble is complete without an equally eye catching Heelz Hobo evening clutch-satin purses decorated with diamante encrusted frames or beaded jewels embellished with flirty ostrich feathers. Sexy, confident, and fashionable, Heelz Hobo's delectable concoctions are sure get more than a few conversations started about your fabulous look.

or: C Scoop

and bags
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mi-precious stones sure to top off any outfit with panache. With its amazing array of trendy accoutrements, it has never been easier to get fashion's inside scoop.

Shoe-In: VNC

[illegible]

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Style Savvy: URS

Aiming to give customer satisfaction and good quality is the driving force behind URS shoes. Helping you explore a world of options without breaking the bank, URS makes it a point to deliver the latest styles and designs from the around the world, and literally deliver them at your feet. Their hip translations and exquisite delivery of these international trends make for unique, eye-catching shoes that will add that special character to your regular shirt and jeans combos. Your office outfits will have instant polish with their woven pumps. Your pretty dresses will look \even prettier with sunny yellow sandals. Even your simple shorts and tees will have instant style impact with their silver flats. Continuing the trend for borderless fashion, URS let's you live a life of fashion luxury and high-taste while letting you work within your budget.

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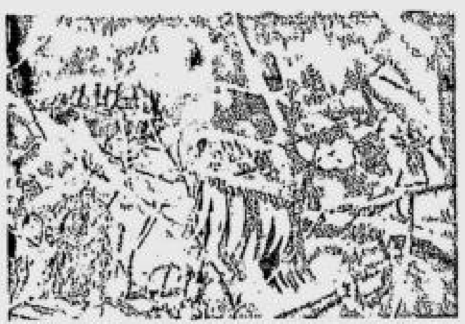
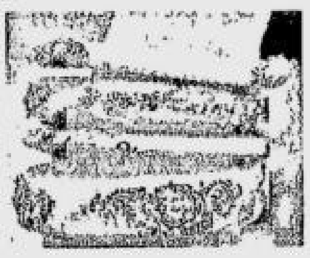
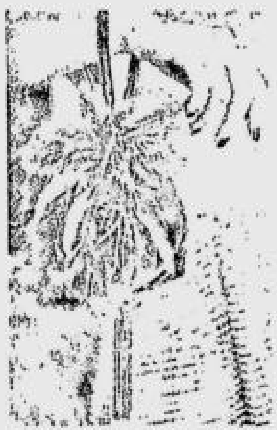
Creative Genius: AXXEZZ


AXXEZZ carries all sorts of jewelry in a variety of designs.


BANGLES in ivory-like finishes can be worn in a row.


Go for a statement evening purse like this featherey find.

Malaysia-based Filipina Gina Frias-Himpe knows accessories. She created Axxezz, an accessories shop that carried almost any kind of fashion jewelry you can think of. "I have a passion for accessories because they provide plenty of scope for creativity. I try to combine design elements and materials from the East and West to create a look that is trendy and has universal appeal." Her artistic vibe carries on to her store's lime green and turquoise flower logo and the shop's interiors with the funky lamps on the ceiling.

Besides accessories, you can also find bags, hats, scarves and hair ornaments that's color coordinated and themed, so it's easier for customers to find what they need.

GRAB attention with this gold weave necklace and earrings set.

COPPER CUFFS are timeless accessories.

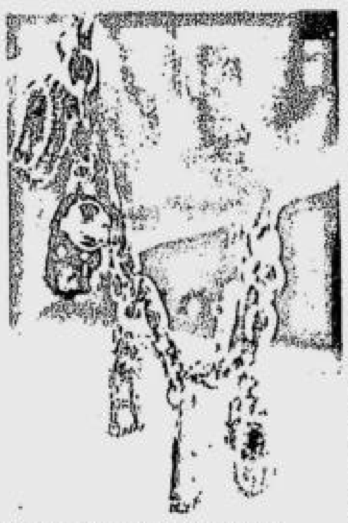
Bauble Gang

By [illegible]

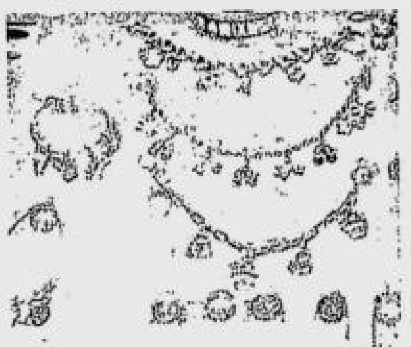
Go ahead and frost yourself with fancy jewelry that will suit every personality.

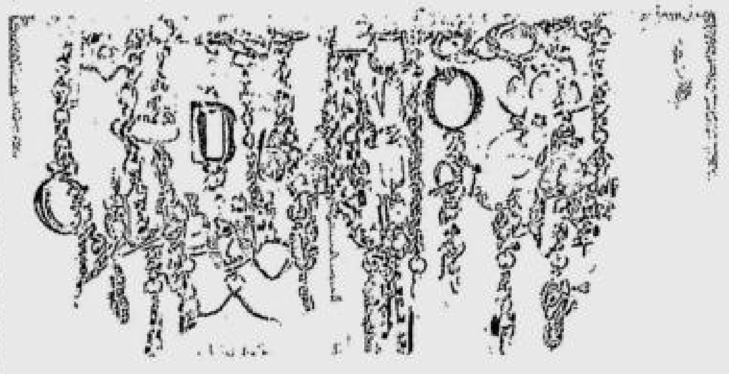
Personal Touch: EIKO

In these fast-paced times, people rarely have the time to make something such as personalized accessories, so the fact that Eiko strives to keep that art alive is truly refreshing. Choose from alphabet letters, beads and buttons, ribbons and feathers to add on to sterling silver chains and leather straps. You can practically make as many designs as you please, varying from sophisticated to whimsical. All you need is a little imagination.


Dress up your wrists with pretty charms.

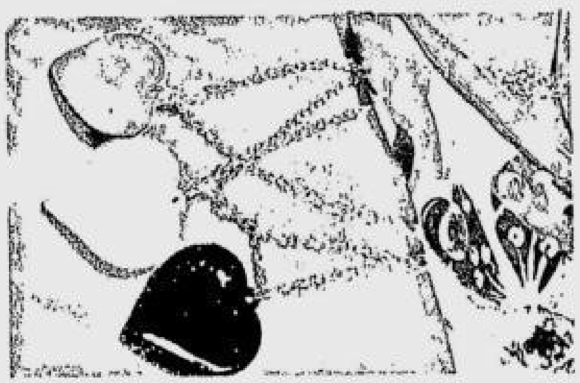
EIKO'S silver necklaces can be customized with pendants of your choice.



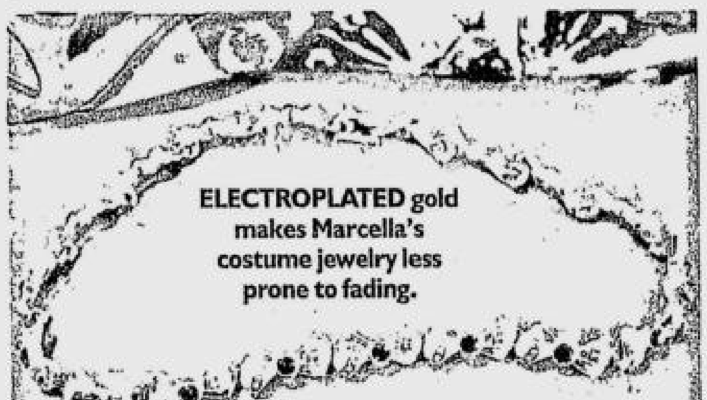


Bargain Buys MARCELLA

Marcella allows you to sport the look of luxury at a fraction of the actual cost.


Colorful pendants for the young and the young at heart.

Marcella's is practically an institution in the fancy jewelry industry. Around since the nineties, this shop offers everything from headbands, ponytails, bangles, necklaces, even tiaras and wigs. It's a one-stop shop for accessory lovers who don't want to splurge.

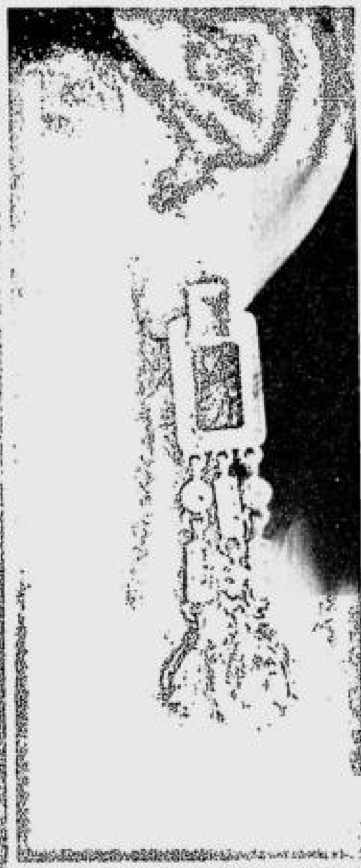

ELECTROPLATED gold makes Marcella's costume jewelry less prone to fading.

Silver Lining: IMONO Collection

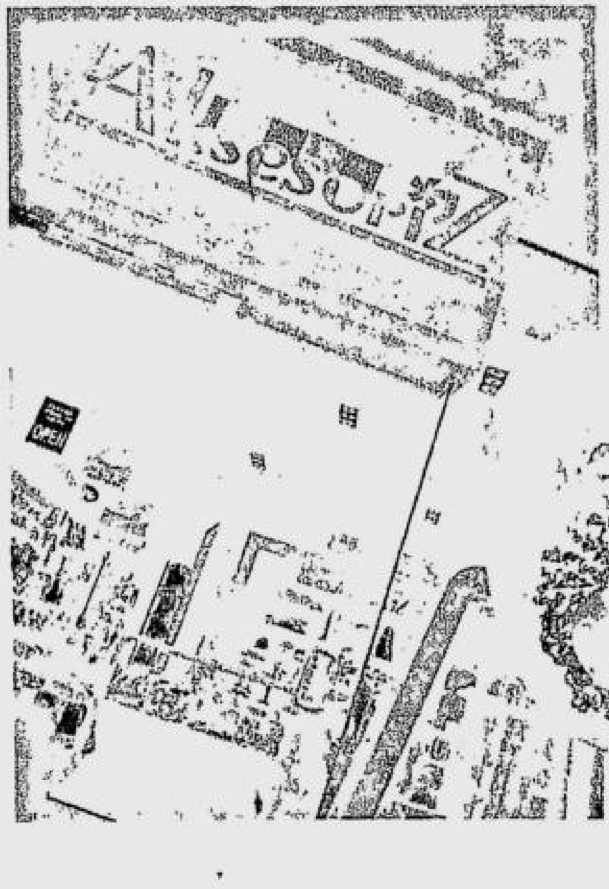
COUNTLESS choices of sterling silver earrings

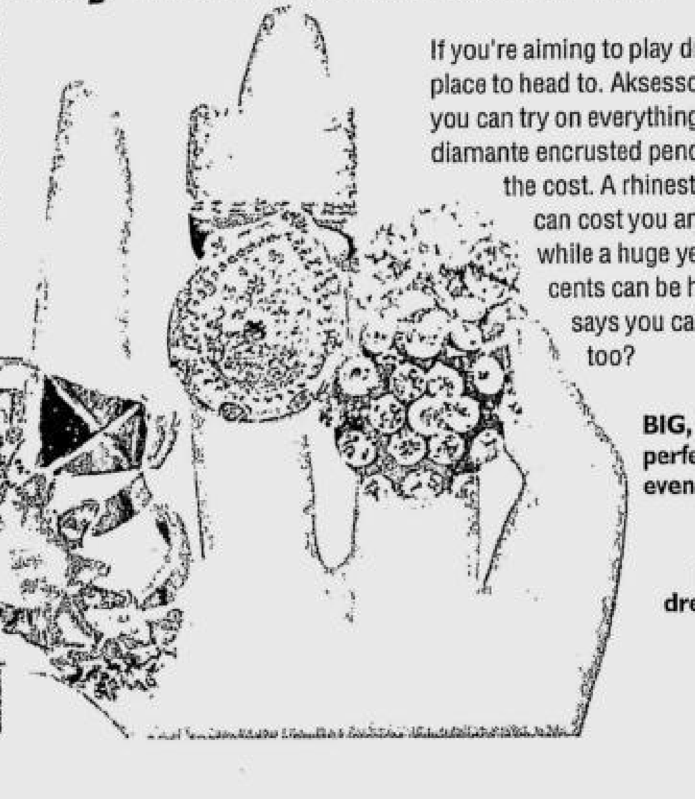
Imono [illegible] sophisticated silver and sterling silver necklaces, bracelets and earrings are [illegible] collector's dream come true. Their sleek, minimalist designs and modern store interiors are a whole lifestyle experience. The pieces are all inspired and one-of-a-kind, so you really get more than you bargained for. Perfect for people on the market for inexpensive accessories that look like a million dollars, without the hefty price tag.

EXTRA large rings can be worn alone or stacked for extra impact.

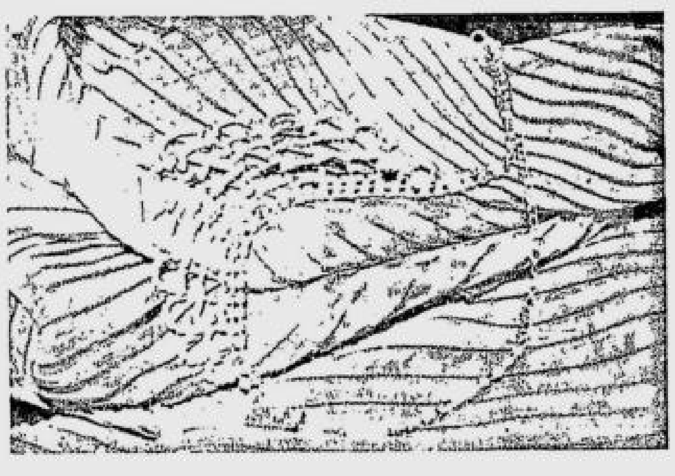

EVENING glam earrings like these are easy on the budget.

Play Time: Aksessoriz



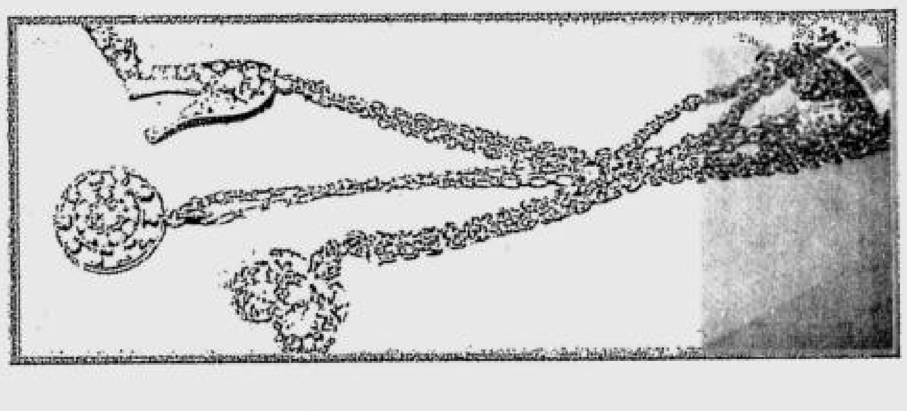


If you're aiming to play dress-up on a budget, this is the place to head to. Aksessoriz is the kind of store where you can try on everything from fancy cockrtail rings to diamante encrusted pendants, and never worry about the cost. A rhinestone necklace and earrings set can cost you anywhere from P900 to P1500 while a huge yellow stone ring with crystal accents can be had for as litlle as P800. Who says you can't have your cake and eat it too?



BIG, bold rings are perfect for formal events.

BEJEWELED pendants help dress up a simple white tee.



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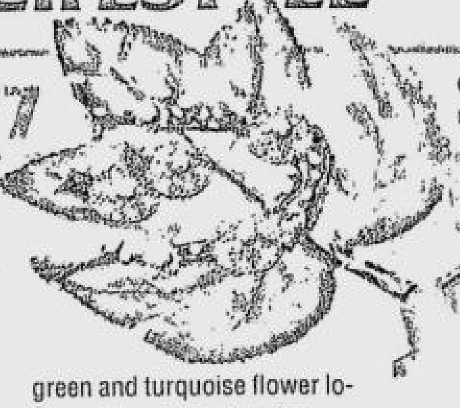

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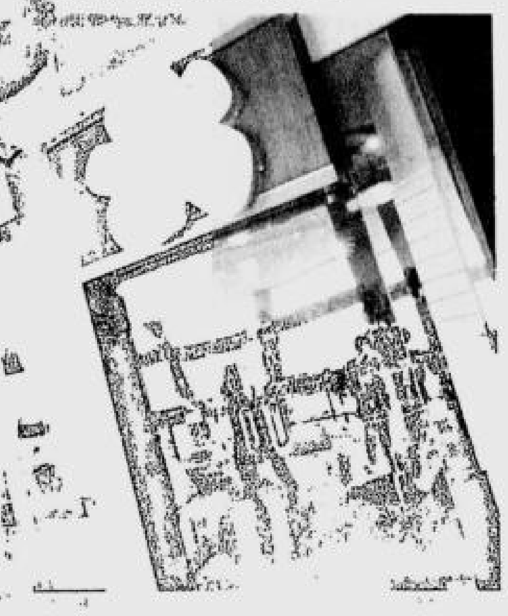

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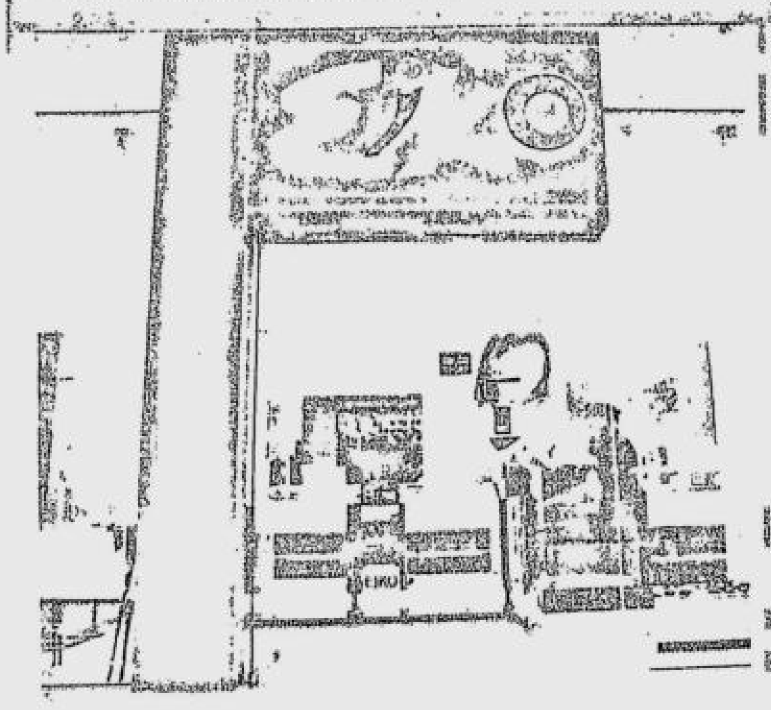
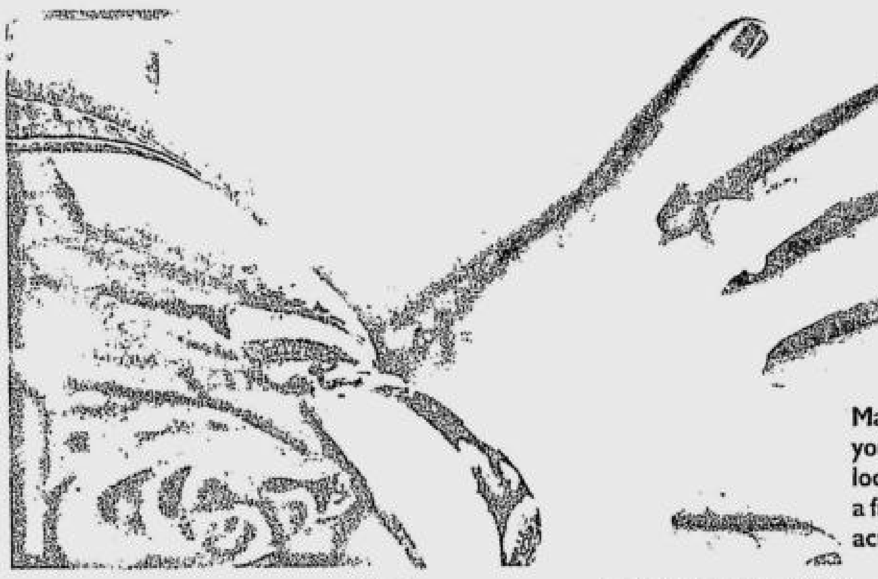
that will suit every per

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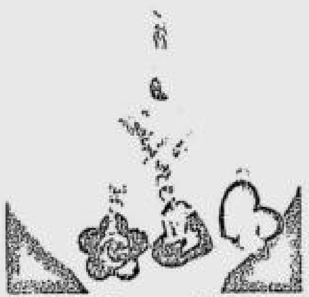
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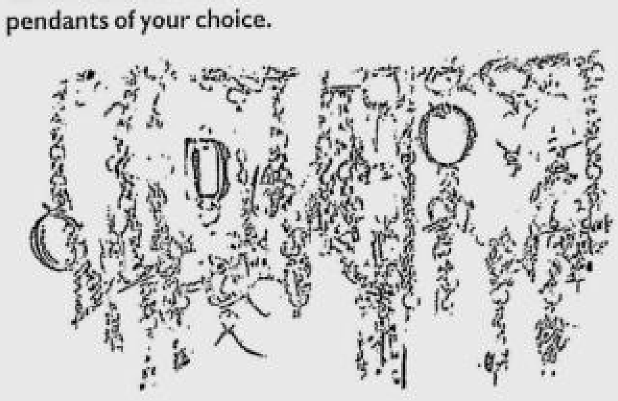

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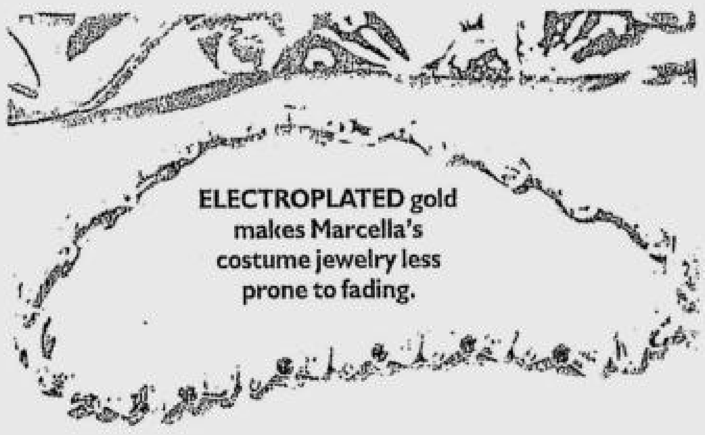
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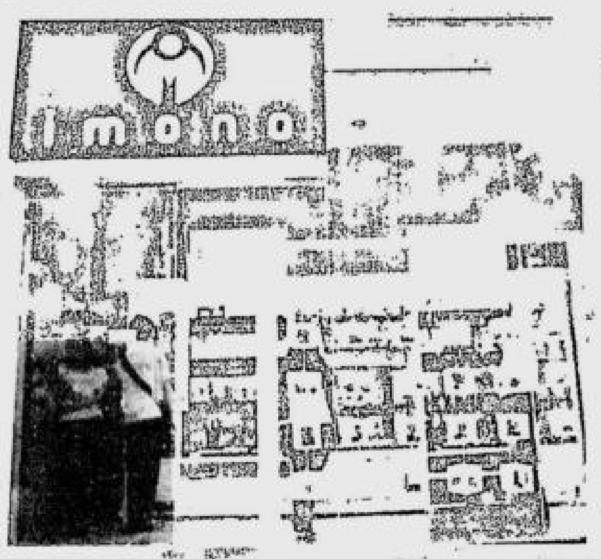

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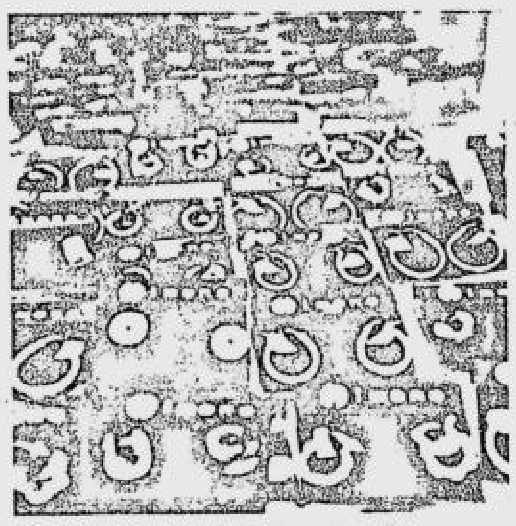
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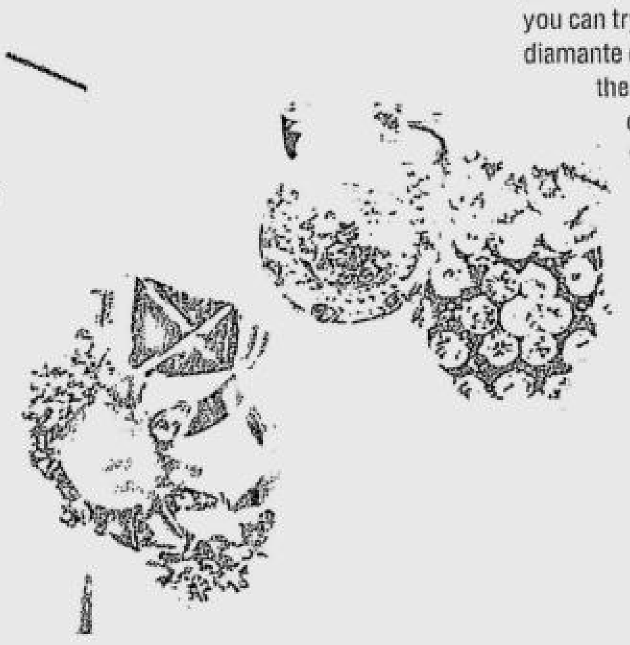
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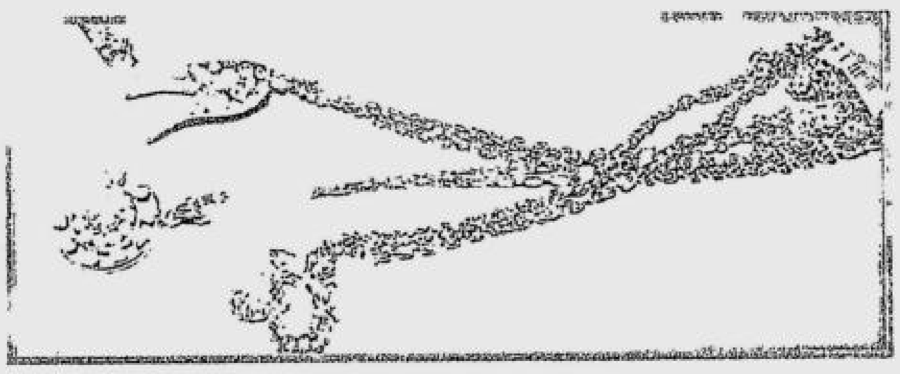
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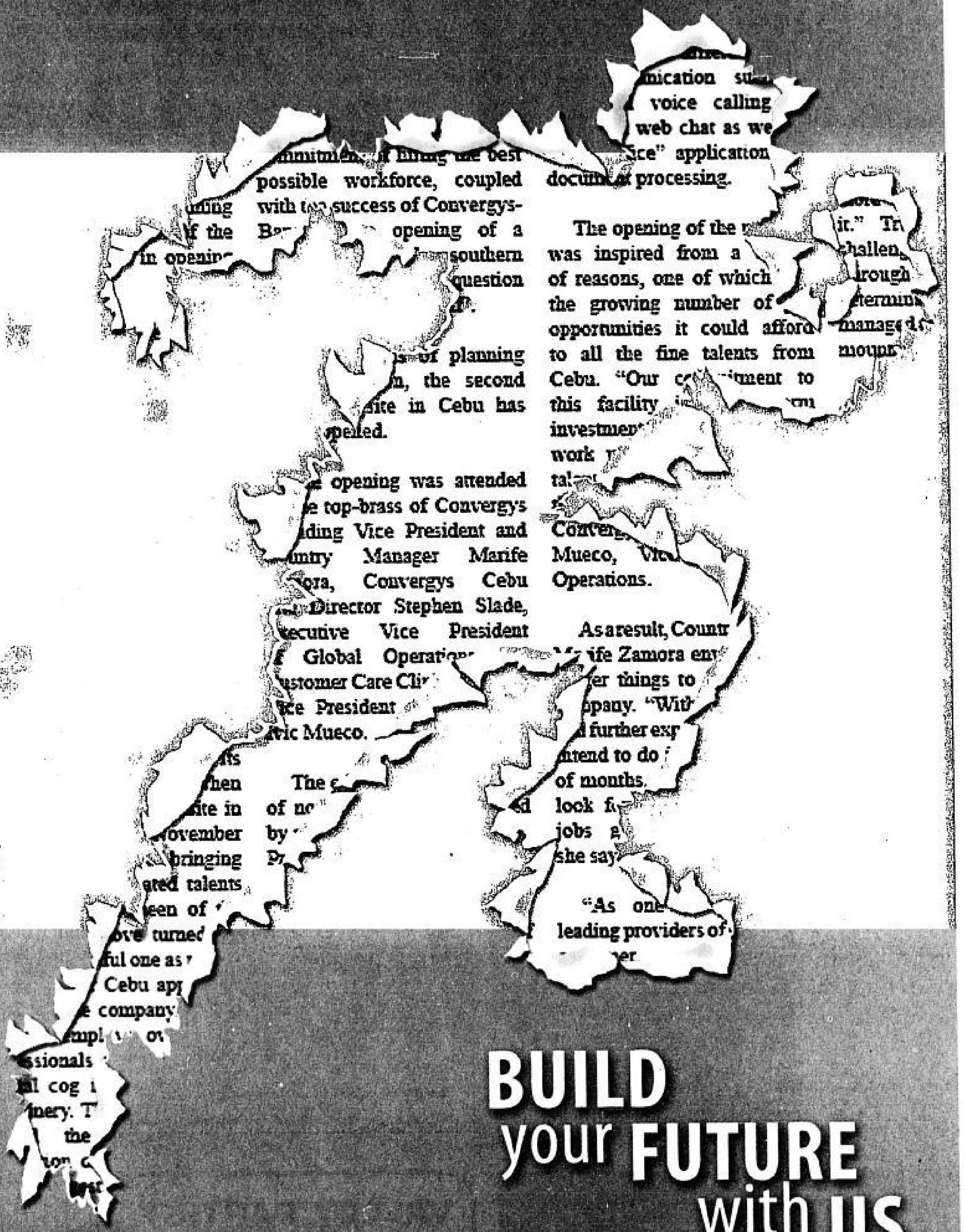

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Nov. 16 - 18 - Ayala Center Cebu (*Rotunda Area 2 fronting Thirsty*)
Nov. 20 - 21 - Robinsons Ermita Manila
Nov. 23 - 24 - SM City Manila
Nov. 23 - 25 - Ayala Center Cebu (*Rotunda Area 2 fronting Blue Magic*)
Nov 30 - Dec 2 - Jobquest Job Fair Megatrade Hall 1, Megamall

CONVERGYS is committed to the career growth of its agents, team leaders, senior team leaders and operations managers through its highly-structured career path and an intensive Management Development Program.

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- Understands the benefits of multiple design and methodologies and object-oriented environment

QA/TESTER

- College graduate of any IT-related courses
- Possess a keen eye for detail and/or bug tracking
- Highly motivated, resourceful, adaptable, flexible; a team player who can work well under pressure
- Equipped with good communication skills

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, Computer Science, IT or any related field of interest
- Advanced skills in Photoshop, Image Ready, Illustrator, Flash, and HTML
- At least two (2) years experience in Graphic Design, Illustration, and excellent typography skills.
- Excellent visualization skills with the ability to articulate concepts and ideas

GRAPHIC-SLICER

- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably Fine Arts and IT-related courses
- Possess intermediate to high-level skills in Adobe Photoshop and Image Ready
- Have an excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Flexible in all tasks assignments

It's time for you to launch a great career. So send a copy of your resume to:

email → jobs.ph@playtech.com
snail mail → HR Manager Unit 705, 7th Floor Keppel Center, Samar Loop cor. Cardinal Rosales Ave., Cebu Business Park, Cebu City

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CENTURY
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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

CENTURY SALES OFFICERS

If you are:

1. college graduate of any 4-year course
2. with good communication skills
3. computer literate
4. 21 to 28 yrs old
5. with pleasing personality

You will receive:

1. basic pay of at least 10,000
2. unlimited commissions
3. opportunity to travel abroad

Come in business attire for interview to :

Century Properties, Inc.
21st floor, Pacific Star Bldg.,
Buendia corner Makati Ave.,
Makati City

On November 19 and 20 at 10 AM to 4 PM
Look for Mr. Edwin J. Babiano

A GROWING TRADE COMPANY IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

- Mechanical/Electrical Engineering graduate
- Good in written and oral communication
- Must have the ability to organize and motivate
- With experience in industrial plant machineries
- Can present ideas easily to top management
- Hard working and trustworthy

MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL TECHNICIANS

- Male
- Graduate of Electrical/ Electronics or Mechanical Engineering; technical/Vocational course graduates with experience in industrial/manufacturing setting may apply
- With at least 2 yrs. exposure in repair, troubleshooting and maintenance of industrial machineries
- Good at details; highly flexible and can work under extreme pressure
- Must be a team player and can present ideas easily to top management
- Hardworking and trustworthy

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Graduate of Four-year Business Course / Computer Science
- Computer Literate
- With pleasing personality
- Hardworking and can present reports to management easily
- With at least 2 years experience

*E-mail your resumé with picture to alange888@hotmail.com
Working site: Makati City

INVENTORY CLERK

- Graduate of Four-year course
- With pleasing personality and hardworking

DRIVER

- Male
- Graduate of Automotive Technology Course
- Must be honest and hardworking
- Must have knowledge in car repair and troubleshooting
- Must be familiar in Manila and nearby provincial areas

SALES COORDINATOR

- Graduate of a four-year course
- Minimum of 2 years in Sales
- Male / Female

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- Graduate of four-year course
- Minimum of 2 years in Sales
- Good in selling tubes

NOTE: Applications must be below 28 years old

Interested applicants may send your comprehensive resumé with photo and credentials to:
Warehouse 1 Peterbilt Compound Veterans Center,
Western Bicutan, Taguig

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A.) COUNTER RESERVATIONS STAFF – (1)

- with Abacus & Amadeus CRS experience in a Travel Agency

B.) ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT - (1)

- with full sets of accounts bookkeeping experience

Applicants must be:

- female, 35 years old and below, college graduate, computer literate
- hardworking and with good oral English communication

C.) MOTORIZED MESSENGER / DRIVER - (2)

- willing to make deliveries within Metro Manila and nearby places like Cavite and Laguna area
- must be 30 years old and below, responsible and hardworking

Interested applicants may apply in office attire with comprehensive resumé, 2x2 picture, TOR, Diploma and NBI or Police Clearance at:

DISCOVERY TOUR, INC.
GF Unit 301 Sagittarius Bldg., HV Dela Costa St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL
PHILIPPINES

CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL-PHILIPPINES
CSCDI-TABACO
Zone 3, Fatima, Tabaco City, Albay

is in need of a

Communications Coordinator

CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL-PHILIPPINES CSCDI-TABACO, is a non-stock, non-profit organization duly registered under the Philippine Laws and affiliated with Children International, Kansas City, Missouri, USA. CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL-PHIL CSCDI-Tabaco provides benefits to less-privileged children in the 1st District of Albay

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Dev. Comm. Journalism and Communication Research or any related field,
- 3 years experience working with Development Organization; Media Company with strong community development background and creative arts management
- Excellent writing and oral skills together with Filipino and Bicol dialect (would be an advantage);
- Knowledge Management;
- Design and Creative skills (branding of messages, layouting and working knowledge of Photoshop, Coreldraw, Powerpoint, Photography, Videography).
- Web management
- Demonstrated ability to work in a multi-cultural environment.

Major Functions:

- Develop agency communication plan and provide copies to Children International.
- Coordinate and work closely with Agency Director and Programs Coordinator to keep informed about all the different agency programs and activities in order to provide promotional support and address questions from the media, CI headquarters, sponsors or donors in an informed manner.
- Maintain SOA micro site (on CI Exchange) and other communication channels on a consistent basis to ensure and improve information sharing between agencies and CI headquarters.
- Serve as "stringer" gathering and submitting story ideas, photo and video for use in CI's various publications; perform follow-up and story development as requested by Creative staff
- Design Agency promotional materials to be distributed to donors, sponsors and media
- Organize and coordinate media support (press releases/conferences, etc.) for SOA events such as grand openings, festivals and more

Interested applicants may send their detailed resumes and letters of application to Mr. Pio C. Salvador, Agency Director, Children International –Philippines, CSCDI-Tabaco, Zone 3, Fatima, Tabaco City, Albay. Or e-mail at psalvador@tab children.org.ph
Deadline for submission on or before Nov. 30, 2007

H.W. Carlsen Far East

Invites applicants for the positions of Engineering Manager, Senior Engineer, Junior Engineers with the following qualifications:

MECHANICAL DESIGN ENGINEERS

- *Minimum 4 years working experience in design*
- *University degree (mechanical engineering or naval architecture)*
- *Knowledge in CAD*
- *30-40 years old*
- *Provincial-based (Ilo-Ilo)*

Please send all applications to:

hwc.eng07@yahoo.com

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technology solutions that work

The Leading IT Security and Solutions provider in the Philippines
is currently looking for dynamic individuals with strong passion for information technology to join our team of highly qualified individuals.

Sales Executives

Requirements:

- Graduate of Sales or Marketing, Management from reputable schools
- Male/Female with strong sales background
- Outstanding Communication skills and negotiation skills
- Willing to be assigned in Makati or Quezon City

Sales Managers

Requirements:

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Business Studies/Administration/Management or equivalent from reputable schools
- Male/Female
- Outstanding Communication skills
- Should have outstanding business writing and selling skills
- Willing to be assigned in Makati or Quezon City

Product Managers

Requirements:

- Graduate of Business/ Marketing or equivalent. Related Professional Training, Certification or Membership in Marketing Planning & Management.
- Strong market research skills
- Male/Female with strong PR and events management skills
- Excellent Strategic skills (exploration, development, implementation and monitoring).
- Willing to be assigned in Makati or Quezon City

Technical Support Engineer/ Supervisor

Requirements:

- Graduate of Computer Engineering, Computer Science or its equivalent from reputable schools.
- Male/Female
- Knowledge in installing different software and knowledge in PC assembly and troubleshooting.
- Has a strong leadership background
- Advance knowledge in LAN, hardware troubleshooting, Linux and Windows servers

Analyst/Programmer

Requirements:

- Graduate of Computer Science, Information Technology or its equivalent from reputable schools.
- Male/Female
- Advance knowledge in systems analysis and design
- Advance knowledge in Visual Basic 6, PHP, ASP, Java, HTML, XMA, CSS, Crystal Report, MySQL, SQL, MS ACCESS.
- Willing to work extended hours

Telemarketing Officer/ Receptionist

Requirements:

- Graduate of Computer Science, Information Technology or its equivalent from reputable schools.
- Male/Female
- With very good interpersonal relations skills
- Outstanding communication and negotiation skills
- With strong sales background

Interested applicants may apply personally in our office
Valueline Systems and Solutions Corporation
2nd flr., J&L Bldg., #23 Matalino St., Central District Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 925-2938; 925-2223
Unit 805 8/F Cityland Herrera Tower, #98 V.A. Rufino cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City Tel. No: 845-0584
or email resume at hr@valueline.com.ph

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- At least 2 years hospital experience in the last 4 years
- No placement fees
- Free Immigration Lawyer's Fees
- Free two month's housing
- Airfare included
- Full benefits (including medical & vacation)

Interview schedules on Nov. 28, 29, & 30, 8 am-5 pm., pls. e-mail your resumé at **cmaleg@yahoo.com**, contact **0919-2104200** and **0919-4312107, 434-3195**

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CRM
Accounting/ERP
NetSuite

The future of Accounting is in technology... Join our driven Customer Support Teams.

Payroll Support Specialists

Responsibilities

- •Maintain broad and technical knowledge of product and services.
- •Greet customers in a courteous, friendly, and professional manner using agreed upon procedures.
- •Listen attentively to customer needs and concerns; demonstrate empathy.
- •Clarify customer requirements; probe for and confirm understanding of requirements or problem.
- •Meet customer requirements through first contact resolution. Minimize escalation to Tier-II support.
- •Confirm customer understanding of the solution and provide additional customer education as needed.
- •Prepare complete and accurate work and update customer file.
- •Communicate effectively with individuals/teams in the program to ensure high quality and timely expedition of customer requests.
- •Effectively transfer misdirected customer requests to an appropriate party.
- •Contribute ideas to resolve problems to better serve the customer and/or improve productivity.
- •Participate in activities designed to improve customer satisfaction and business performance.
- •Occasionally use decision-support tools to answer questions.
- •Solve problems that may be unstructured and that may require reliance on conceptual thinking.
- •Offer solutions to issues that are often non-standard/non-routine and require some clarification.

Qualifications

- •Experience on end to end Payroll process, preferably US Payroll.
- •Basic knowledge on **US Payroll** Taxes and 401K.
- •Direct experience and knowledge of general accounting principles.
- •Knowledge of Payroll or ERP systems is a must.
- •Experience in a call center (technical/customer) organization providing telephone or email support or relative experience in a BPO is a plus.
- •Knowledge of Internet, browsers and web navigation is desirable.
- •Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- •Strong personality, highly enthusiastic and service oriented individual
- •Troubleshooting skills.

Support Specialists (Web-ecommerce/CRM)

Responsibilities

- • Develop and maintain up-to-date knowledge of our constantly expanding and evolving set of products and services through internal training and self-training
- • Utilize the available resources and tools to provide high quality Tier 1 technical support over the phone and via email for designated areas of the product
- • Document the work done in our internal case/issue management system using predefined procedures
- • Maintain high customer satisfaction through the use of proper phone etiquette, active listening and customer service skills
- • Work in a dynamic team environment to ensure customer requests are rerouted accurately and efficiently to the right resource.
- • Communicate customer-reported issues with our Quality Assurance and Development teams using established guidelines.
- • Design creative solutions to non-standard problems and modify existing solutions to resolve non-routine problems.

Qualifications

- • Solid experience in developing or troubleshooting web services using major platform like Java /. NET or solid experience with Javascript and HTML is a must
- • Experience with Web Design, Web Development and general Internet infrastructure is strongly recommended.
- • Experience with any ASP/SaaS software or any ERP, CRM and Web/E-Commerce is a definite plus
- • A minimum of 2 years of call center (technical / customer) organization providing email and telephone support is required.
- • Direct experience and knowledge of general accounting principles is recommended.
- • Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- • Highly enthusiastic, positive minded, service oriented individual.
- • Demonstrated troubleshooting skills. Superb analytical and critical thinking skills
- • Ability to think "outside-the-box"

Candidates must be willing to work in graveyard shifts, weekends and/or holidays.

Bilingual Support Specialists – English + Nihonggo, Mandarin or Spanish

business tools and solutions that matter most to global customers...

Work alongside our highly skilled and professional Technical Teams.

Implementation Consultants

Responsibilities

- •Responsible for managing client in post-sale environments i.e. the delivery of implementation services for customers of NetSuite. Working with NetSuite Sales and the balance of the Professional Services Team, this position will quickly assess customer implementation needs, develop innovative plans to solve their problems, and implement these plans to the customer's satisfaction.
- •The successful candidate must have a passion for business and the technologies that run it, as well as, advanced analytical problem solving acumen. Working with aggressive timelines and a full project portfolio is required.
- •Work will be done over the phone with customers across North America and on **North American business working hours.**

Qualifications

- •Candidates for the Implementation Consultant role should have many of the following qualifications:
- •2 to 5 years experience in systems applications consulting, either internally via an IT organization or externally with a consulting firm or software provider.
- •Solid experience in change management and Business Process Mapping in support and / or in conjunction with a major IS initiative.
- •Excellent understanding of common industry standard business practices as related to ERP, CRM and E-commerce.
- •Excellent understanding of common industry standard business practices as related to Accounting (Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, General Ledger, Invoicing), Sales Force Management (Opportunity, Proposal, Sales Orders, Forecasting, territory management and Quotas), Inventory Management (Purchasing and Fulfillment) as well as support (Cases Management and Territory Management).
- •Exposure to less ubiquitous, more esoteric business practices such as Accounting (Payroll, Expense Tracking, Multi-currency, and commissions), Sales Force Automation (Returns, Team Selling), Marketing Campaigns and Web presence (Net or E-Commerce, Shopping carts, Website layout).
- •Successful candidates should have demonstrated experience in translating customer business requirements into workable world class business solutions, either as a software solution or a re-engineering initiative.
- •Candidates should have solid client management skills and be able to work with customers to execute on an implementation plan.
- •Experience with software in an ASP environment is a plus as is any experience with financial accounting, customer management, and sales force automation software. Previous consulting experience with the following applications is a solid predictor of success as a PSM at NetSuite: QuickBooks, Great Plains, SalesForce.com, Upshot, ACT, Goldmine, MAS 90, Siebel, Oracle, SAP, PeopleSoft, JD Edwards.
- •Working knowledge of and experience using XML, JavaScript, HTML, Crystal and SQL is desirable.
- •Experience with designing and writing html, Java and Java script for an e-commerce website.

Sr. NT System Administrator

Responsibilities

- •The position that we need to fill is for a full time Sr. NT System Administrator. This person will be responsible for providing desktop and server support primarily to NetSuite's Philippine employees and occasionally to NetSuite employees located in the Pacific Rim. This position requires **24/7 availability**. The most critical aspect of this position is the ability to complete IT projects and tasks independently.
- •Required knowledge, skills, and abilities

Qualifications

- •The candidate will need, at a minimum, 3 years experience as a system administrator, working in a Microsoft Windows environment.
- •Proficient in Windows 2000 and 2003 Server technology.
- •Knowledge of Exchange e-mail administration, Windows servers, VPN, and tape backup technology is also critical. Experience in setting up an Exchange email server from start to finish is a plus.
- •Proficient in Microsoft Active Directory.
- •Familiarity with various backup software packages (Veritas preferred).
- •MCSE NT/2000/2003 preferred.
- •Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships at all levels.
- •This person will need to be located within a 45 mile radius of the NetSuite office in the Philippines.
- •Examples of work
    - •Plans, documents, and communicates all changes to server software minimizing customer disruption.
    - •Installs, tests, and implements server operating system upgrades and enhancements.
    - •Responds to emergency calls relating to server and desktop performance, diagnosis of problems, and resolving issues.
    - •Maintains data integrity and security of desktop and server software.
    - •Create system images for desktops, laptops, and servers.
    - •Build desktop and laptops systems from an image.
    - •Ability to diagnose and resolve desktop and mobile computing issues.
    - •Monitor Error logs and provide routine maintenance to mission critical servers.
    - •Research and recommend security solution for desktop computers and servers.
    - •Procure office computers and computer related equipment.
    - •Evaluate, install, debug, audit, maintain, and document Windows server farms.
    - •Be a part of an on call rotation that does **24x7** monitoring, and be accessible via pager and/or cell phone.
    - •Take training courses that align with corporate objectives to bridge skill gaps and learn new relevant technologies.
    - •Ability to express oneself clearly and communicate well, both written and verbally, within a passionate technical team.
- •**Technical Musts:** Windows NT/2000/2003 architecture, Implementation, monitoring, troubleshooting Active Directory Administration Exchange Server Administration OS Protocols/Applications (DNS, DHCP)Telecom Experience;
- •**Soft Musts:** Excellent Communication, Prioritization, Teamwork, Working Independently

Data Migration Consultants

Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of this position is to assist customers with the migration of data from enterprise systems into NetSuite.
Day to day activities will involve providing customers advice on the data migration process, rationalizing data from multiple enterprise systems and extracting and merging the data into NetSuite.

Qualifications

- •A minimum of 2 years work experience
- •An undergraduate degree in mathematics, computer science or engineering is preferred but a liberal arts degree followed by at least 2 years training in Computer Technologies (an NIIT type course) is sufficient.
- •Note: This is not a programming position. There may be occasional programming work but the bulk of the work is in data migration using NetSuite's existing tools.
- •Strong communication skills
- •Experience with the data migration process (extraction, transformation and loading) and a good understanding of xml and csv file formats.
- •At least one year programming experience with either C# or VB.Net or Java
- •Experience with the data architecture and data formats of popular SMB applications (QB, Sage, Great Plains, Goldmine and sfdc.com) is desirable but not mandatory.

For Practice Manager (Implementation Team) and Team Lead (Data Migration Team) – strong leadership skills are required; at least 7 and 5 years hands on supervisory experience, respectively.

Associate Training Consultant

Responsibilities

This role will deliver web-based training on the functional aspects of the NetSuite application in the areas of CRM, ERP and Ecommerce via our web conferencing software. This position will also develop eLearning modules in the same subject areas to provide on-demand, self-paced training solutions. The Associate Training Consultant will learn and understand the training agendas and learning objectives for each area by topic including:

- Dashboards and Basic Usability
- Searches and Reports
- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable
- Inventory Management
- Project Management
- Sales Force Automation
- Customer Service and Support
- Marketing Automation
- Ecommerce Basics
- Customization Basics

The Associate Training Consultant will deliver a variety of these topic-based, end-user and administrator sessions to customers looking for specialized training in an online capacity. In addition, they will learn all relevant aspects of current and new product functionality to ensure ongoing improvement of product knowledge, training and presentation skills.

Qualifications

- Preferably 2-3 years experience specializing in Training & Development or equivalent in a corporate setting
- Demonstrated ability in adult learning and classroom management
- Highly people-oriented, flexible, patient and organized
- Self-motivated, analytical , resourceful and creative
- Possesses strong listening and leadership skills
- Possesses exceptional presentation and facilitation skills
- Excellent English oral and written communication skills
- Must demonstrate good attitude and ability to be a team player who can work independently or with small teams
- Can easily adapt to a changing environment and is able to work with minimum supervision
- Must be able to work on a flexible/graveyard schedule
- Proficient in MS Office - Excel (advanced), Word, PowerPoint and Outlook
- Graduate of Accounting, Psychology, Communication Arts or equivalent college degree
- Open to work in NA hours

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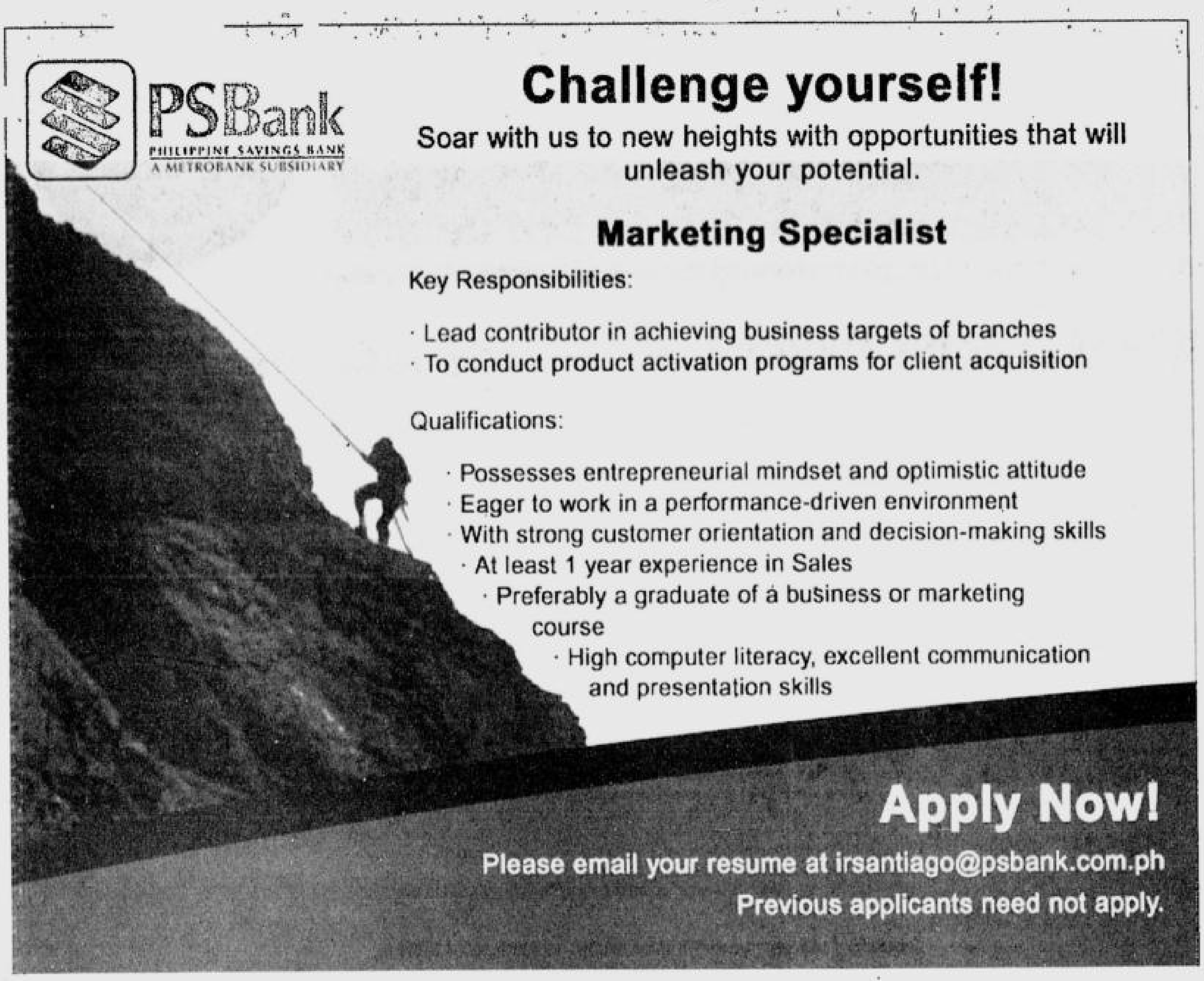

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Marketing Specialist

Key Responsibilities:

- Lead contributor in achieving business targets of branches
- To conduct product activation programs for client acquisition

Qualifications:

- Possesses entrepreneurial mindset and optimistic attitude
- Eager to work in a performance-driven environment
- With strong customer orientation and decision-making skills
- At least 1 year experience in Sales
- Preferably a graduate of a business or marketing course
- High computer literacy, excellent communication and presentation skills

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requires

SENIOR DESIGN ENGINEERS

(MECHANICAL/STRUCTURAL & CIVIL)

Minimum 5 years experience in all levels of project design, fluent in structural analysis; design load calculations; controlling and reporting equipment lists, equipment sizing and scheduling etc. Mining design and construction experience an advantage.

LEAD ELECTRICAL DESIGN DRAFTSPERSON

Minimum 5 years in senior electrical design drafting experience. Must be skilled in the use of Microstation and / or Autocad. Mining experience an advantage

Applications are invited from suitably qualified personnel for the above positions for the Makati-based office. All applicants must be fluent in written and oral English.

Applications for the positions should include details of education and previous work experience and professional references.

Salary package and benefits are competitive. Please send all applications to **manila@lycopodium.com.ph** referring to the titles above.

Applications must be received ASAP.

TNT
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TNT is a world leading provider of express delivery services, logistics supply chain solutions and mail services. TNT Express offers unique integrated pan-European and domestic delivery services. It is also the number one logistics provider to the automotive industry and key provider of logistics services to the electronics and pharmaceutical sectors.

Join our team and play a key role in our continued success. We welcome your interest in employment opportunities. We are accepting applications for the positions of:

HR MANAGER

This position will support the HRD – VP in developing the organisation's human resource in strategizing and implementing Training and Organisational Development (OD) intervention activities, as well as to foster a workforce culture of continuous learning. The HR Manager will support the HR-VP in maintaining industrial peace while promoting productivity and equal opportunity. He/She will support the company in successfully achieving certification on OHSAS18001, ISO9001, ISO14001, SA8000 and IIP. A degree holder, preferably in HR, Industrial Relations, Psychology, or other related fields with at least 2-5 years of human resources development experience. Must have advance knowledge of HR trends and practices, HR Legislative and labour law requirements.

NATIONAL MAJOR ACCOUNTS MANAGER

The National Major Accounts Manager is responsible for the profitable growth of the Major Accounts Segment for the country. This growth will be achieved through strategic sales planning and development in combination with the management and development of all employees (direct and functional) with MA responsibility. He/She will be accountable for achieving: new business acquisition against target; existing business development target; profit development against target; and ensuring customer & employee satisfaction. Competencies: Marketing sales / account management experience; International Express or Logistics industry background; Proven track record of achieving sales targets (personal & team); Organisational awareness (structure and products & services); Strong Market Sector awareness including supply chain structures, developments and requirements; Recognized general and people management skills; Ability to interpret and apply Value Based Management principles and financial reporting.

AIRFREIGHT SALES EXECUTIVES

The Airfreight Sales Executive is responsible winning, keeping and developing airfreight and local Major Accounts opportunities whilst supporting the development of both National MA, Global Account and multi-country customers existing and prospect. The role also calls for the provision of administration support in all matters relating to the MA within the portfolio. Preferred Experience/Knowledge: Minimum 2 years hands on experience in Sales, gained in Freight Forwarding Companies; Familiar to Airfreight documentation; Familiar to Custom Brokerage Process; Strong relations with Airlines; Experience in selling against targets.; Hunter (ability to gain new accounts); Customer Portfolio (Preferred option).

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS ANALYST

This position will assist in the preparation of detailed logistics service proposal, cost models and presentations for potential and existing TNT business clients, which are in line with TNT's strategic focus, fully costed and structured in accordance with TNT Logistic Asia's pricing principles and business ethics. Competencies: Solid understanding and knowledge of Supply Chain Management; Understanding of Transport system and management; Awareness of Financial modeling, route planning/scheduling; Knowledge on quality systems and procedures; Awareness of functionality of Warehousing Management Systems.

TERRITORY SALES EXECUTIVES

This position will be tasked to develop and maintain revenue that meets sales objectives by generating new business with regular trading partners, improving the total client base and revenue, ensuring proper communication of customer and company requirements. Sales experience preferred.

You may forward your resume with recent photo to:
HR DEPARTMENT
TNT Express Worldwide Phils. Inc.
2F Pair Pags Cargo Center, NAIA Avenue, Pasay City
Or e-mail: hrd.mnl@tnt.com

AN EXPANDING REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER (W/ PROJECTS IN LAGUNA, CAVITE, RIZAL, BULACAN) IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

(1) QUALITY CONTROL ENGINEER

- Male, 25-35 years old, Licensed Civil Engineer
- With experience in Quality Control, Materials Engineering and Materials Testing
- Will visit our projects in Novaliches, San Mateo Rizal and Marilao Bulacan.

(4) SITE ENGINEERS

- Male, 25-35 years old, Civil Engineering Graduate
- With experience in Housing / Land Dev't
- Willing to be assigned in San Mateo Rizal, Marilao Bulacan, Carmona Cavite, Sta. Rosa Laguna, and Cabuyao Laguna.

(2) WAREHOUSE ENCODERS

- Male / Female, 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Management / Accounting / Engineering / or any 4-year course
- Willing to be assigned in Marilao Bulacan, Sta. Rosa Laguna and Cabuyao Laguna.

(2) HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

- With experience in grader, bulldozer, payloader and back hoe operations
- Willing to be assigned in San Mateo Rizal and Marilao Bulacan.

Please send Resume with picture/Transcript to our Liaison Office:

1014 Quirino Hi-way,
Novaliches, Quezon City
Tel nos. (02) 939-3661
or (02) 937-9931
Look for Ms. Nora Ebal

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OPEN POSITIONS:

AUDIT SUPERVISORS and MANAGERS

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Certified Public Accountant or Certified Internal Auditor
- With at least 3 years experience in internal and/or external auditing
- Must possess excellent communication skills both oral and written
- With high integrity, objectivity, tact and assertiveness
- Willing to travel and accept provincial assignments
- Provincial applicants are very much welcome

AUDIT STAFF

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting or equivalent
- CPA is an advantage
- Above average communication skills both oral and written
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to travel and accept provincial assignments
- Provincial applicants are very much welcome

Other positions open:

Office Staff
Trainer
Accounting Staff
Family Care Representatives
Drivers
Licensed Embalmers

PSP

Interested candidates, please send your updated resumé to:
Cecil P. Basconcillo- HR Supervisor
St. Peter Life Plan Building
Quezon Avenue corner No. 2 West 4th St., Quezon City
Telephone No. 371-77-57
E-mail: cecilpb@stpeter.com.ph

An International Resort-wear Brand with strong nationwide presence invites highly competent candidates to be part of its team as:

AREA MANAGER – BORACAY

Primary Functions & Responsibilities:

- Drive the business in Boracay by effectively managing the store, attaining sales targets, providing customer service, and ensuring performance of team to optimum level.
- Develop the business by distribution management in the island of Boracay and nearby areas.
- Work with a broad knowledge of accounting principles and procedures to account for inventory and finance management.
- Lead warehousing and logistics systems for operating requirements.
- Set direction and strategies and provide business development leadership.
- Generate sales reports and assist in the conceptualization and implementation of marketing efforts.
- Execute simple yet crucial tasks related to the brand on a day-to-day basis.

Qualifications & Requirements:

- Independent and willing to relocate to Boracay and work within the island life.
- Bachelor's degree in Marketing or Business Management/Administration with good background in Finance/Accounting, preferably from a reputable university.
- Minimum of 2 solid years experience in management, preferably retail.
- Proactive and creative; has strong strategic, analytical, and decision-making skills with a "hands-on" approach to the business.
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills in both English and Tagalog. Ilongo an advantage.
- Computer literate; knowledgeable in Microsoft Office programs Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc.

Please submit your resume **on or before November 30, 2007** to **Eleanor Chua,** HR/Admin Manager, 1902 88 Corporate Center, Valero cor Sedeño St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or email it to **areamanagerboracay@yahoo.com**.

A Reputable Manning Agency is in need of:

IT Person

- not more than 40 years old
- preferably Computer Science or Computer Engineering graduate
- Knowledgeable in: Java and C#, while Lotus Notes programming would be an advantage
- work experience not an absolute requirement provided one is teachable

We offer competitive wage package. Might be required to work in Europe (familiarization) for a few months

Please send comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture to:
Makati Central Post Office
P.O. Box 3840

A progressive international deep sea fishing company based in Navotas, one of the top 500 corporations, invites candidates for the positions of:

I. ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Male or Female
- Must be an accounting graduate
- Experienced in bookkeeping and any accounting related work is an advantage
- Computer Literate

II. STAFF ENGINEERS / TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS

- At least graduate of Mechanical Engineering or Naval Architecture course
- With at least 2 years of relevant experience
- With knowledge in filing system of plans, drawings and pertinent documents
- Knowledgeable in ship repair planning and contingency planning
- Computer Literate
- Has good communication skills
- Willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila

III. DIESEL MECHANICS

- Experienced in repair and overhauling of marine engines
- Willing to be assigned as engineer in fishing boats for international water operations
- Willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila

We reward excellent performance and provide opportunities for growth. Qualified applicants may apply thru e-mail or personally and bring resumé with 2x2 picture, diploma and transcript of records to:

THE HRD DEPARTMENT
1051 North Bay Blvd., Navotas, Metro Manila
Tel. # 2812909
Fax # 2830984
Email : **marla.tongko@frabelle.net**

NAIADSS CORPORATION
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We are currently in need of:

SALES & MARKETING EXECUTIVE

- 23-32 years old
- Graduate of Marketing, Business Administration or Related Courses
- Preferably with Selling Experience
- Computer Literate
- Willing to do field work

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Does a Proposal
- do Telemarketing and Sales Call
- Submit Weekly Report/Itinerary
- Submit weekly & Tentative Reports
- Submit Sales Production Report

Requirements:

- Resumé with 2x2 picture
- Transcript of School Records
- NBI, Police Clearance & SSS No.

Pioneer Main Workshop & Service Center
Pioneer St. cor. Sheridan St.,
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. 633-4499 / 633-4400 Fax: 633-7560

WANTED

SECRETARY

- Female, single, not more than 30 years old
- College Graduate
- Computer literate
- Preferably with experience
- Must be honest, trustworthy & diligent

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Female, single
- Accounting Graduate
- Must be computer literate
- With good scholastic record

Please send your resumé, transcript of records and passport size photo to:

ACS Manufacturing Corporation
Unit 1108 Antel Global Corporate Center
No. 3 Julia Vargas Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
E-mail: **acs.sec@eastern.com.ph**

A large Australian company urgently needs:

EXPLORATION GEOLOGISTS
EXPERIENCED WELDERS

Successful applicants will receive Australian standard salaries and benefits plus a chance to be assigned in Australia.

Candidates may e-mail their resume to:
rpaladio_drillingadvisory@yahoo.com
or fax to (02) 952-0531

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY

Vacancy No. 2007-05-ALD
Date Issued: 18 November 2007
Closing Date: 30 November 2007

POST TITLE : UN Coordination-Analyst
LEVEL : A3 (L)
OFFICE & LOCATION: UNDP-Manila
TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: Appointment for Activities of Limited Duration (ALD)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Coordination Analyst

1. Under the overall guidance and direct supervision of the UN Resident Coordinator in the Philippines, the Coordination Analyst shall: Support the transition of the Philippines UNCT to a 'One UN' by 2010 as requested by the GOP, in the context of the High Level Panel Report on 'Delivering as One'; the outcome of the inter-governmental processes and the lessons learnt from the 8 pilot countries by performing the following :

- ■ Backstop and provide assistance to the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) in putting in place an action plan, through a consultative process, for transitioning to a 'One UN' by 2010, in collaboration with the identified lead Task Force on One UN
- ■ Assist the UN RC in the establishment and effective operationalization of the Task Force on One UN to consist, among others, of the Government, key national stakeholders, development partners and the members of the UN Country Team (UNCT), who shall, altogether, determine a common vision and mission for the UN in the Philippines
- ■ Conduct thorough researches aimed at providing only accurate and timely information to the UNRC, which are critical for the achievement of evidence-based decision among the UNCT in the course of moving towards One UN, taking into consideration the mandate on "Delivering as One.
- ■ Support implementation of the Work Flow analysis review as appropriate

2. Deliver effective support and backstopping to the UNRC in the preparation and implementation of country programming processes and products, including CCA and UNDAF and UN programmes coordination, by consistently undertaking the following :

- ■ Conducting thorough analyses and researches of the political, social and economic situation in the country, and on any other related issues that may be found relevant to the task at hand;
- ■ Coordinate, for and on behalf of the UN RC, the activities and processes leading to the preparation and finalization of the CCA document during 2008 for the next cycle commencing January 2010.
- ■ Provide secretariat and substantive support services to the UNDAF Working Groups, while ensuring full participation of UN Agencies, Government, civil society, multilateral and bilateral institutions in development of the UNDAF document (2010-2015) drawing on best practices from around the world , during 2008 and managing its and formal submission and approval at headquarters,
- ■ Establish effective mechanisms, duly approved by the UN RC, for monitoring of the existing UNDAF Implementation based on the UNDAF Results Matrix and the UNDAF Monitoring and Evaluation Plan in consultation with UN Agencies, Government, civil society, multilateral and bilateral institutions;
- ■ Provide options to the UN RC on adjusting strategies and implementation modalities, cost-effective and efficient implementation of joint UN programmes, common services and other UN functions;
- ■ Verify, validate and ensure alignment of the next UNDAF with the government's planning cycle and scope as well as the modality for delivery of services which are expected to be compliant with the Paris Declaration principles.

3. Coordinate support to national efforts to achieve the MDGs and Global Conference Commitments.

4. Manage and coordinate the full process of preparing RC reports and annual reviews, contribute to its drafting and ensure the participation and involvement of all Agencies in the process, and obtaining approval, at all times, from UN RC on all aspects of forms and contents prior to releasing and dissemination of all such documents and related information.

- ■ Thorough analysis and research on MDG-related activities and preparation of annual reports and presentations
- ■ Strongly advocate the norms, models and good practices of UN Agencies to inform the development of strategies, policies and programmes towards reaching the MDGs and other internationally agreed commitments, including the establishment of a system for monitoring, advocacy, localization and financing (e.g. Debt for MDGs)

5. Coordination of the substantive support to the RC on PDF related work, focusing in particular on the MDG Social Sector Group.

COMPETENCIES

Must possess strong managerial skills, excellent writing communication skills, partnering and networking and people skills, among others.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education: Master's degree in social, economic political science; international relations or development studies.
Experience: Two to three years of post master's experience in the relevant area of expertise. Experience in similar tasks with international organization or knowledge about the UN and Resident Coordinator system would be an advantage.

The selected candidate will receive a salary that is commensurate with his/her background and work experience. Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P. 11) in our website www.undp.org.ph/jobs/ and send to:

The Human Resources Unit
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower I, RCBC Plaza
Cor. Buendia and Ayala Avenues, Makati City

Please indicate the Vacancy No. and Post Title on or before 30 November 2007. Kindly note that only completed P. 11 forms will be reviewed.
UNDP is an equal opportunity employer. Please note that we will contact only the short-listed candidates.

APPROVED:
Kazuyuki Tsurumi
UN Resident Coordinator a.i.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

for IMPORTED INSTANT NOODLES

- College graduate
- At least 5 years experience in handling supermarket and grocery store accounts
- With experience in selling instant noodles and supermarket products to major supermarket and grocery stores
- Male or Female, 25-35 years old

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resume with photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

1344 Angono St., Makati City
or call Ms. Dorie Ramilo
Tel. Nos.: **897-6819** loc. **111** or **899-6439**
or Mrs. Emily Gepilano at tel. nos.: **850-1803** or **807-2454**

We offer attractive basic salary plus commission to successful candidates.

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MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR EXPANSION AND GROWTH

For positions listed below, kindly email your resumé to
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Indicate position in the subject line.

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Office Manager (Baguio)
Safety and Security Associate

BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT
Sr. Analyst for Business Process Improvement (Six Sigma Greenbelt)
Sr. Manager for Business Process Improvement (Six Sigma Blackbelt)

FINANCE
Accounting Assistant (Employee Transactions/Accounts Receivable)
Accounting Assistant (Fixed Asset)
Accounting Associate (Accounts Payable)
Accounting Associate (Financial Reporting and Analysis)
Financial Analyst
Revenue Analyst
Risk Management Officer
Tax Analyst

HUMAN RESOURCES
Consulting Manager – Employee Relations (Manila/Baguio)
Corporate Recruitment Officer
Director – Recruitment
HR Advisor – Employee Relations (Cebu)
HR Assistant – Compensation and Benefits
HR Assistant – Organizational Development
HR Assistant – Recruitment (Baguio)
HR Associate – Compensation and Benefits (Cebu)
HR Helpdesk Analyst
HR Officer – Employee Relations (Baguio)
Technical Recruiter (Cebu)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Business Analyst
Consulting and Implementation Manager
Data Quality Manager
Database Administrator
Desktop Analyst
HR Database Administrator
IT Specialist (Baguio)
Reports Analyst/Developer
Server Systems Specialist (Cebu)
Sr. Business Analyst
Telecom Administrator (Cebu)

OPERATIONS
Operations Manager for Technical Account (Cebu)

TRAINING
Communication Trainer (Cebu)
Leadership Development Training Manager
Sr. Management Development Trainer

WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT
Director/Manager – Workforce
Real-time Analyst
Workforce Analyst

PeopleSupport is currently in search for eRep Professionals in the following fields:

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Saturday, 9:00am to 3:00pm
HR Hotline: (02) 755-2600
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

Cebu City
PeopleSupport Cebu
e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
Monday to Saturday,
9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222
cebu@peoplesupport.com

Baguio City
PeopleSupport Baguio
SM Fiesta Strip Building,
Harrison Road, Baguio City
baguiojobs@peoplesupport.com

Davao City
B-1 Luisa Avenue Square,Jacinto Extension
Monday to Saturday, 9:00am to 6:00pm
HR Hotline: (082) 227-9301
davaojobs@peoplesupport.com

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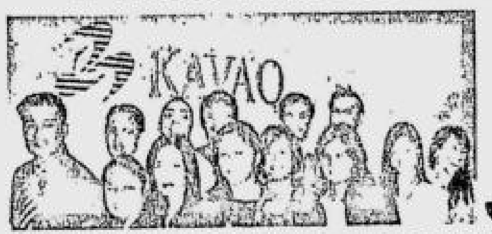

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HEAR WHAT OUR TOP EARNERS HAVE GOT TO SAY :

IRENE (Asst. Manager – 1 .5 years) – "I have earned more than 120K a month consistently & Kavaq has provided me excellent career enhancement & professional growth.'

JENA (Asst. Manager – 7 months) – "Been in the company for 7 months, earned 300K in total & also promoted to Assistant Manager in this short period of time."

JANUARY (Asst. Manager - 1.5 years) – ""Achieved top sales status & earned 400K in the course of 3 months & one of my best achievements ever.""

JHUNNE (Asst. Manager – 1.5 years) - "Working with KAVAQ has given me the knowledge about a lot of issues that I never learned from my previous job. Oh, did I say that the pay is good? It is, and the opportunity to earn is endless."

[illegible]
- Excellent communication skills
- [illegible]
- Good research skills
- [illegible]
- Confidence in speaking to senior management people from various organizations of different industries
- Intelligent [illegible]
- Fresh Graduates are encouraged to apply

[illegible]

Kavaq Business Intelligence
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AXA Philippines, the country's fastest-growing life insurer, is in need of

Financial Executives

For Marikina Area
Barangka-Riverbanks, Calumpang and Parang

A basic salary, superior compensation package and travel opportunities await qualified candidates

QUALIFICATIONS:
- 22 to 35 years old
- College graduate of any 4-year course
- Fresh graduates are also encouraged to apply
- Professional sales experience in real estate, pharmaceutical, telecommunication, stock trading or insurance is an advantage

Please bring an updated resume with recent photo and personally apply at

Figaro Coffee Company
Riverbanks Marikina City
November 20, 2007 (Tuesday) 8:00a.m. - 12:00nn
You may send also your resume to ba.recruitment@axa.com.ph
For Inquiries, call (02) 885 0101 loc 1238 or (02) 887 2079

AXA LIFE INSURANCE & INVESTMENTS
Metrobank Group

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Indukem Innovations Incorporated, a fast-growing chemical distribution company with offices in Cagayan de Oro and Davao City is currently sourcing for more products and therefore would like to invite dynamic and topnotch individuals for the position of:

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The successful candidate shall be responsible for product sourcing and research in order to produce competitive materials analyses comparing products with key competitors and will also be responsible for product registration with the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA). The ideal candidate we are looking for must be the following:

- Male or Female; 23-35 years of age.
- A college graduate, preferably in Agro-Business or any related course.
- With 2 to 3 years experience in product development and the planning and launching of product campaigns
- With above-average communication skills (verbal and written)
- Self-motivated and can initiate and complete projects with minimum supervision
- Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint and MS Project
- Willing to be based in Manila
- With the ability to manage a variety of projects and adapt to a changing work environment
- Innovative-thinking
- With good time management skills and willing to work under pressure

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to immediately send their résumés, transcript of record and recent ID photo or email documents to:

INDUKEM INNOVATIONS INCORPORATED
2nd Avenue, Cubao, Q.C.
evelyn_benito@yahoo.com

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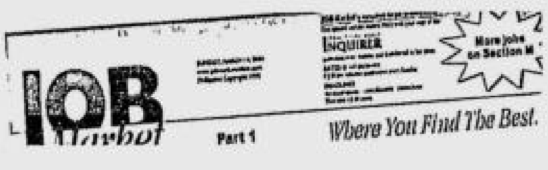

EDC **Education Development Center, Inc.**

Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) 2 Program

Education Development Center, a US-based, international non-governmental organization, is seeking experienced professionals for the USAID-funded EQuALLS2 project in the Philippines. EQuALLS2 works with a broad range of stakeholder organizations to strengthen formal and non-formal basic education for children and youth in Mindanao. EDC is an equal opportunity employer.

We have urgent requirements for the following. All positions are based in Manila, but may involve occasional travel to Mindanao, particularly in the ARMM and Regions 9 and 12. The candidates must possess a pleasant disposition, professional attitude, excellent English written and verbal communication skills, exceptional planning and organizing skills, and must be able to maintain a high level of confidentiality. They must also be able to effectively cope with multitasking and perform under pressure. Good commendation from previous employers—not only of the above abilities/characteristics, but also of the candidate's integrity, excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to blend with and be part of a team—is required.

One (1) Sub-Grants Manager, to manage the sub-grants portfolio, including monitoring the entire sub-grants management process from solicitation through close-out and ensuring proper compliance with USAID regulations. The sub-grants manager is responsible for coordinating the sub-grants implementation with the EDC-EQuALLS2 technical team, monitoring funds utilization, and supervising the work of grants compliance officers. EDC prefers a Certified Public Accountant, with auditing background, and requires at least 5 years experience in a similar position for USAID-funded projects. The candidate must be adept with USAID regulations and familiar with Philippine labor, tax and related laws. Deadline for submission of applications is 29 November 2007

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, to support the implementation of EQuALLS2 M&E strategic plan with focus on operations research. The candidate should preferably hold an academic degree in any of the following fields: basic education management/administration, development management, statistics or educational measurement, social research, or other related field. He/She must have at least 3 years experience in social research preferably in education and human development, and in the M&E of donor-assisted projects in any social sector. The officer must also be computer literate and preferably with working knowledge on the use of research statistical software/tools. He/She must be able to provide a list of research work indicating actual role or involvement, and provide samples of research-related papers, when required. Deadline for submission of applications is 23 November 2007.

Executive Assistant to the Chief and Deputy Chief of Party, to provide technical and administrative support to the Chief of Party and Deputy Chief of Party. This includes, but is not limited to, researching/gathering information; organizing meetings; preparing notes of meetings and other reports; composing correspondence; compiling and maintaining various documentation and files; coordinating and arranging for the COP and DCOP appointments and travels; maintaining central calendar of important activities and visitors; coordinating visitors' programs and itineraries and logistical requirements; providing other relevant administrative and secretarial support to the COP and DCOP. Experience in the same capacity within USAID or an international donor-assisted organization is an advantage. The candidate must possess a BS degree in management or related field and be proficient in MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint. He/She must also have a high degree of proficiency in oral/written communication and report writing. Submission deadline is 23 November 2007.

Front Desk Personnel/Administrative Assistant, to man the reception area and provide logistical support to the project, such as travel and hotel arrangements for staff, coordination with the regional administrative officers, and provision of other secretarial support services. She must have at least 3 years work experience in the same position, preferably with a USAID project or an international donor-assisted organization. The candidate must have a cheerful disposition, always with a smile in her voice. Proficiency in MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint is required. Submission deadline is 23 November 2007.

Submission of Application
Qualified candidates who meet the above requirements may submit their updated CV to jpulombarit@edc.org with a letter of interest indicating the latest salary. **Previous applicants need not apply.** Due to the high volume of applications received, only shortlisted candidates will be acknowledged

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dtp artists

Cre8 Singapore, a premier regional financial print and communications group offering quality total print and communications solutions is looking for suitable candidates for the following positions:

requisites:

- Graduates of the following universities:
  - University of the Philippines – Diliman
  - De La Salle University
  - University of Santo Tomas
  - Far Eastern University
  - Adamson University
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Good knowledge of software such as Quark Xpress, InDesign CS2, Acrobat, Freehand, etc...
- Minimum 1 year of relevant experience with a publishing agency

Successful candidates will be offered attractive remuneration packages and will be based in Singapore for a minimum of 2 years. Please forward a succinct resume with details of your qualifications, work experience and achievements and a non-returnable photograph to:

cre8sinhr@gmail.com

DESTILERIA LIMTUACO & CO., INC.
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ESTABLISHED IN 1852

And its affiliates needs:

DISTRICT SALES SUPERVISORS

(Bicol-Palawan/North Luzon)

Male, not more than 35 years old. With proven track record in sales or marketing. Possesses strong leadership qualities, result oriented, has the ability to conceptualize, plan and implement sales oriented promotions to achieve sales and profitability goals of the company. Knowledge of the food and beverage industry and experience in implementing Sales Promotions are plus factors.

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

(Batangas/Palawan/Cebu)

Male, college graduate, not over 30 yrs. old, a man of honesty and integrity, communicator, continually prove and penetrate accounts, achiever with at least one year selling work experience. Computer literate, with driving skills an advantage.

Due to the urgency need of the above requirements, we encourage interested applicants to personally apply to our office or fax their comprehensive resume and other credentials.

V.S.O.P. Brandy · White Castle Whisky · El Hombre Tequila · Toska Vodka · Maria Clara Sangria · Paradise Mango Rum Liqueur

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E-mail: careers@limtuaco.com

IMMEDIATE HIRING

Bookkeeper

- Must be an accounting graduate
- At least one year experience in Bookkeeping
- Female, 22-30 years old

Send your application to GOLDEN HARVEST GLOBAL CORP. Unit B, 8th Flr. Cacho-Gonzales Bldg., 101 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City or email us at ghgc6677@pldtdsl.net

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- Male/Female

MARKETING STAFF
- 18-36 years old
- Male/Female

For info, call or visit:
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Kamias Road, Quezon City
(02) 926-0144
Fax No. (02) 972-0126
0915-3411027/0918-6713643/
0922-2383052 ROSE

Urgently Needed!
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2. Sales/Mktg. Rep.
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DINA H. LOOMIS, president of the South East Asia Speakers and Trainers Bureau, Inc announces the conduct of special programs for "Effective Business Writing" on Nov. 22-23; "The Total Secretary"on Dec. 4; and "Presenting With Power" on Dec. 6-7 at the Penthouse, Makati Stock Exchange Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City. For inquiries, contact Tel. nos: 881-2540; 881-7358; 882-5716; 883-2676 (Francis/ Delia/ Myrna/ Andrew) or email us at seawebit@surfshop.net.ph.

AIM's evening programs

THE ASIAN INSTItute of Management-Executive Education Lifelong Learning Center (AIM-EXCELL) has found a way to pursue its training schedule from 6 to 9 PM, Monday to Friday, AIM Campus, Makati City on Marketing Distribution Management on Nov. 19 to 23.

For inquries, contact the EXCELL Marketing Group, Raul, Yola, or Apple at tel. nos. 893 2050; 892 4011 loc. 166, 526, 228 or email excell@aim.edu.

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Interested applicants may apply at:

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Bldg. A Cargo Village Complex Compound
Cor NAIA Ave. and Multinational Village,
Parañaque
8523445 loc 122, 123
or may e-mail their resumé to the following:
cftizon@eaglegroup.com.ph
hr@eaglegroup.com.ph

SALESPERSONS– URGENTLY NEEDED
With previous sales experience for: **Manila, Luzon, Visayas**
Pleasing personality. Previous sales experience preferred. College graduate. College level or High School graduate. Female/Male. 20-32 y/o.

MICROSCOPES SALESMEN
M/F. 23-35 y/o. knowledge of microscopes w/ 1 yr. sales experience

REGISTERED PHARMACIST
Female 23-35 y/o. with 3 years work experience

MARKETING SECRETARY
Female 22-30 y/o. college graduate. fluent in English, experienced in correspondence with foreign suppliers.

Applicants need to be in Manila for interview or ...

Send Resume or Apply in person at:
ASSOCIATED DRUGS, INC. – a 60-year old established company
2222 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila
Between Quirino & Vito Cruz LRT Stations
afternoon only 1 to 5 pm. Monday to Friday or
E-mail : **info@asdrug.com** Tel# 525-3161

MATH TEACHER

- Major in Math
- Available teaching for SAT level
- Full time only
- Good English pronunciation
- Familiar with Computer

Please send your resumé to: **briones4@naver.com**

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

SALES ASSISTANT

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

Provides the highest level of customer service by demonstrating advanced product knowledge and excellent selling skills; builds quality customer relationships that result in increased sales for a specific outright brand or classification.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS:
- **male or female; not over 26 years old**
- **graduate of Bachelor or Associate Degree / College Undergraduate with at least 6 months work experience in retail merchandising**
- **energetic, result-oriented and keen to details**
- **with exceptional follow-through and communication skills**
- **personable**
- **flexible to be scheduled in support of retail hours**

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
of any SM DEPARTMENT STORE
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SM Mart, Inc.
SM Corporate Office, Building D
J.W. Diokno Boulevard, Mall of Asia Complex
Pasay City

or email us at:

Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

(Please bring comprehensive resume, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS Number / SSS Employment History printout and original and photocopy of Transcript of Records and Diploma)

NTC-M
NMFPI

NORWEGIAN TRAINING CENTER-MANILA

Is in need of an

INTERNAL AUDITOR / ASSISTANT QA MANAGER

Who Are We?

The Norwegian Training Center-Manila of the Norwegian Maritime Foundation of the Phils., Inc. (NMFPI) was founded in May 1990 for the purpose of ensuring competent training and to promote quality shipping.

We offer varied courses from Ship and Cargo Handling; Management; Technical; Safety Courses; Welding; and Culinary Courses.

Our faculty of International mariners are trained to teach with confidence, aided by modern teaching aids and methods.

What We Are Looking For?

1. Between 28 to 36 years old.
2. Preferably male and a Filipino citizen.
3. Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy.
4. Must be CPA and have at least two (2) years experience in auditing or equivalent, from a major auditing firm.
5. Must have a good analytical ability and seasoned judgment.
6. Must have audit instinct traits, inquisitive mind and perseverance.
7. Must be able to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
8. Combined experience of Internal and External auditor is a plus.
9. Specializing in Finance-Audit/Taxation/ Professional Services or equivalent.
10. Willing to accept a one-man team Internal Auditor position.
11. Willing to work in Taguig City.
12. Willing to travel and do field work.
13. Full-time position available.
14. Can start immediately.
15. Experience in QA Management & familiar with different QA standards
16. Pro-active, self-motivated & ability to work independently
17. Well-organized, detailed and ability to work within tight time frames.
18. Good Team player, capable of working in "Cross-Border" deal team.
19. Flexible with work flow, assignments and willingness to support team goals and objectives.
20. Excellent international and communication skills.

For applications please contact:
Ms. Blesila G. Tani-Salva, Administration Manager
E-mail Address: admin.manager@ntcm.com.ph

Address:
Norwegian Training Center-Manila
NTC-M Building, Gate 2 TESDA Complex,
East Service Road, Taguig, Metro Manila
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Responsible for the planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets.
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Responsible for overall operations including fund management and treasury activities in the department store.
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- graduate of any 4-year Business course
- with 2 to 5 years of managerial experience in accounting operations, fund management and treasury functions
- familiar with banking operations and Central Bank procedures
- has the ability to work in a fast-paced environment
- with high level of computer literacy

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Responsible for the assigned branch warehouse in terms of proper planning, controlling and directing operations/functions of a group.
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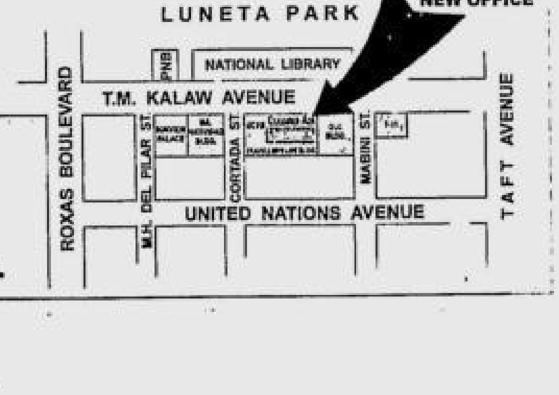

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- ☐ 22-30 years old, Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Business-related courses
- ☐ at least two (2) year experience in HR management administration, Quality Management System (QMS) related to HR and implementation of Labor laws
- ☐ must have good interpersonal and communication skills
- ☐ has working knowledge in Microsoft applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint and publisher)
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To register in the course, contact EXCELL Marketing Group - Philippines, Raul Senedrin / Yola Genuino / Apple Ani at tel. nos. 893-2050; 892-4011 loc. 166; 526; 228. Fax nos. 893-2031; 892-3260.

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How to make the most of an MBA fair

IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO RESEARCH MBA programmes without leaving your home or office desk, thanks to the wonder of the Internet. But, given the investment of time, effort and money that the MBA experience demands, there is still no substitute for meeting the admissions personnel of possible schools face-to-face.

Prospective Filipino MBA candidates can meet over 50 international business schools on Nov. 19 when the QS World MBA Tour holds its Manila Fair at the Mandarin Oriental in Makati City from 5-9 p.m. So with international business schools such as Wharton, Hult, Melbourne BS, Lancaster and Vlerick attending, how do you go about making the best of the event on the day?

Prepare – The QS World MBA Tour attracts over 60,000 visitors around the globe every year, so you can bank on your local event being busy. In 2006, 850 Taiwanese candidates attended the fair so you may have to wait your turn to talk to many of the most high profile schools and, with a queue of other hopefuls behind you, your time with an admissions officer may be limited. Consequently it's imperative that you make the best of the time you have. Start your preparation by using a personalised ranking such as Scorecard at www.topmba.com to draw up a list of programmes, which suit your individual goals, abilities and circumstances. Then, visit the relevant schools' websites to conduct further research. If you have the time, order a print copy of a school's prospectus and bring it along on the day – it shows you have done your homework and mean business.

Focus – Don't waste your time on schools or programmes that aren't right for you. Look at the current class profile and entry requirements and don't forget to check out exactly how much a programme is going to cost. Use your time at the fair to talk to representatives of schools that are realistic options instead of hanging around in queues for 'big name' schools that may simply not be the right match for your skills, ambitions or bank balance.

Map out questions – Develop a list of questions in advance so that you don't miss anything vital on the day. Priorities will vary from person to person, but you may want to consider asking about teaching style, mix of students, background of academics, specializations, future career options and the cost of living.

Don't overload admissions officers – Admissions personnel will be pleased to meet you, particularly if you are well prepared, but they can't devote the whole event to you. Make sure that you keep your questions focused and relevant and prepare an 'elevator pitch' in advance, which will give them the salient facts about you, your background and your goals in no more than two minutes. Feel free to bring evidence of your qualifications with you, but keep them in your bag unless they are asked for.

Don't just focus on admissions officers – An increasing number of schools now bring alumni to fairs alongside their admissions personnel. These individuals have lived the experience and provide valuable insight into all the pros and cons of the b-school experience - so make the most of their knowledge.

Look the part – Information fairs aren't a platform for formal admissions, but they could be the first point of contact with your target school. Consequently, it makes sense to look and act in a professional manner. That doesn't mean you have to turn up in a formal business suit, but it's probably best to leave your t-shirt and old pair of shorts at home!

Funding – An MBA can make all the difference to your career prospects, but it can be expensive. Make sure you find out what scholarships the school offers and how and when to apply. Also check whether they have any special deals on loans with local financial institutions. Attending a QS World MBA Tour event also qualifies you to apply for a range of dedicated scholarships from schools such as Wharton, IE Business School and Ashridge as well as the portfolio of QS Quacquarelli Symonds scholarships – more details at www.topmba.com.

Use the information sessions – The QS World MBA Tour isn't just a venue for meeting individual schools; you can also learn a lot through the pre-fair panel discussion on 'Getting into Business School' and information sessions on topics such as GMAT and the applications process. Many events also feature Master Classes in which you can see business school academics in action and get a taste of what studying for an MBA will be like.

Evaluate – A lot of successful MBA students say that they knew the right school as soon as they talked to its representative; so, trust your instincts as much as your research. Make sure that you assess the people you meet – are they interested in you and your questions? Can they answer those questions easily and authoritatively? Do they seem professional? Meeting people face-to-face like this is as much about you making a judgement as it is about them providing you with relevant and comprehensive information.

And, finally - relax and enjoy yourself!

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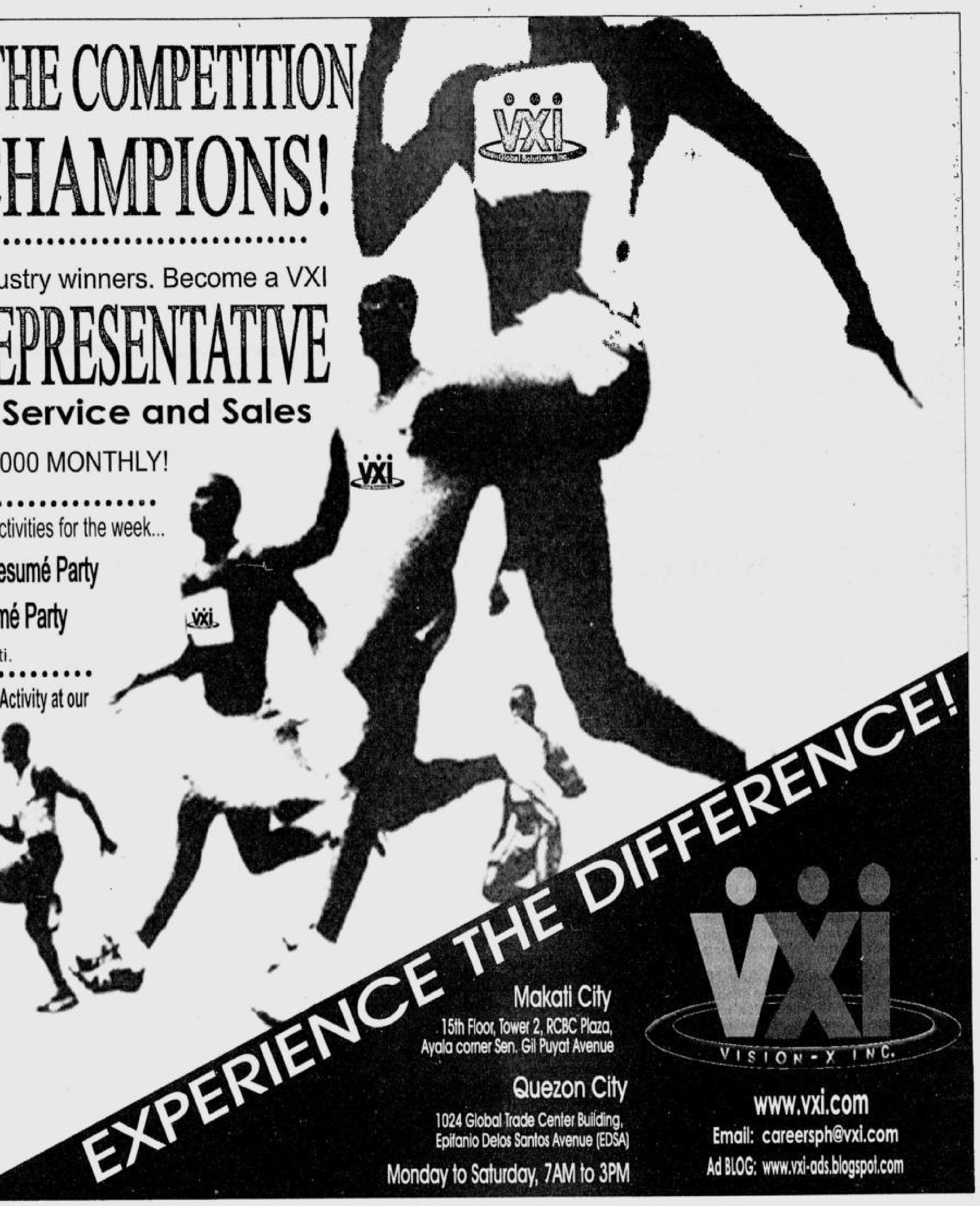

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Interested applicants should personally bring their comprehensive resumé, photocopy of transcript of records and professional ID to the:

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DOLE warns agencies, employers violating HSW policies

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (Dole) warned recruitment agencies and employers against circumventing the policies on the deployment of household service workers (HSWs) as investigations are underway on erring agencies recruiting HSWs for the Middle East.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said agencies and individuals found violating the policies would be penalized with cancellation of their license. Principals and employers in cahoots with these agencies would also be blacklisted.

Brion aired the warning after receiving reports from Labor Attaches David Des Dicang and Leopoldo De Jesus that some agencies and employers who hired Filipino HSWs in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait circumvented the new regulations on HSW deployment. He immediately directed the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to conduct an investigation of the erring recruitment agencies and employers.

Citing a report from Labatt Dicang of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (Polo) in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Region, Brion said some agencies and employers in Saudi Arabia circumvented the new HSW regulations by hiring cleaners with less than SR 1,000 monthly pay (US$268) but who actually ended up working as HSWs.

The Labor and Employment Secretary also cited the report of Kuwait-based Labatt De Jesus, which showed similar circumvention of the regulations. The violations, he said, involved underpayment of salaries, contract substitution, and reprocessing of contracts.

He noted that the Polos in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait received complaints from HSWs victimized by unscrupulous agencies and employers. He urged other HSWs who might have also been victimized to report any form of violations of the HSW policies to the nearest Polo as well as to POEA.

The package of welfare and protection reforms for HSWs raised the minimum salary of overseas Filipino HSWs from $200 monthly to $400 monthly. It removed from the HSWs the payment of placement fee. The HSWs, nonetheless, are required to undergo assessment. Those who fail the assessment three times will have to undergo skills training. The age of HSWs to be deployed abroad was also set at 23 years old and above.

JOBMARKET TRAINING NAVIGATOR

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Marketing Distribution Mgmt	Nov. 19 - 23 6-9 p.m.	AIM Campus Makati City	EXCELL Marketing Group Tel. 893-2050/892-4011 loc 166 / Raul email: excell@aim.edu
Effective Business Writing	Nov. 22 & 23	Penthouse, Makati Stock Exchange Bldg.	South East Asia Speakers & Trainers Bur. Tel. 881-2540 (Francis/Delia/Myrna) seawebit@surfshop.net.ph
Supervisory Leadership Development	Nov. 26 1-5 p.m.	Holiday Inn Galleria	Porter & Miles Tel. 638-7719/20 or 637-6884 / Mercy email: porterandmiles@yahoo.com
The Quest for Manufacturing Excellence	Nov. 26 - 28 8:30-5:30 p.m.	AIM Campus Makati City	EXCELL Marketing Group Tel. 893-2050/892-4011 loc 166 / Raul email: excell@aim.edu
Expanded Withholding Tax & Allowable Deductions	Nov. 27 - 29 8:30-5:30 p.m.	Holiday Inn Galleria	PowerMax Consulting Group Inc. Tel. 687-9014/687-5478 / Leni or text 0905-3354486
Presenting with Power	Dec. 6 & 7	Penthouse, Makati Stock Exchange Bldg.	South East Asia Speakers & Trainers Bur. Tel. 881-2540 (Francis/Delia/Myrna) seawebit@surfshop.net.ph
Positive Management for Supervisors	Dec. 6 & 7	Century Park Hotel P. Ocampo St., Manila	Positive Mngt Sem. Magntitude HRD Tel. 806-5743 email: magnitudehdr@yahoo.com
Emerging Trends in Work and Work Relations	Dec. 6 8a.m-5p.m.	U.P Solair Diliman, Q.C.	UP Solair/PIRS Tel. 920-7717 / 941-6170 email: ferdie.atanacio@gmail.com

PMAP conducts CEPCon 2007

PMAP HAS DONE IT AGAIN!

Under the sponsorship of PMAP-Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee, in partnership with Mayor James Bong Gordon Jr, PMAP-Subic Chapter with Tesda, Mondriaan Aura College and Olongapo-Zambales Association of Private and Public Technical Institutions (OZAPPTI), the team has resoundingly captured the youth of Olongapo City and Zambales by orienting and educating them via a whole-day Career and Employment Planning Conference (CEPCon) held at the Olongapo City Convention Center on Nov. 9. This veritable meeting of minds was attended by some 2,000 students and teachers from various higher academic institutions and vocational-technological schools in Olongapo City and Zambales.

The PMAP team has consistently kept its momentum by being an informative agent of various concerns and issues affecting the youth, and in this conference, PMAPers focused on the solvency problems hounding the career and employment choices of students. PMAP Subic President Editha B. Geniza, opened the conference and enunciated that this project is crucial in the labor absorption of the graduates and those seeking for work and in line with the government's competitiveness agenda. PMAP CSR sub-chair Norilyn Fogata emphasized the reward that the participants may be able to get from the forum.

Keynoting the said event was Undersecretary Hermenegildo C. Dumlao, executive director, NLGQA-PMO. USec Dumlao stressed in his speech that he believes that there will be no unemployment in the Philippines if the students will be academically prepared and it will start with correct education from trained teachers.

The Honorable Olongapo City Mayor James L Gordon gave his inspirational message emphasizing that everybody must strive for excellence in everything. PMAP director Geraldine Serely Alcaraz shared lessons on Career Choices and Employment Opportunities. During his mini lecture, PSOF president Barbie Atienza, FPM, advocated various strategies and techniques in landing a better and satisfactory jobs. He also shared important tips on how to prepare resume and the winning steps in surviving a job interview. PMAPer Ging Igual gave her insights on Entrepreneurship and advised participants to be confident, love work and espouse a positive response to challenges and hardships in their chosen careers and professions. Capping the Conference was an open forum.

Entertainment and music were provided by Teatro Gat'aitab of Mondriaan Aura College and Louie Abaigar, GMA-7's Pinoy Pop Superstar Finalist. OZAPPTI President Fernando Julian acknowledged the sponsors: Jobstreet.com, TeleDevelopment, Inc, Ever Bilena Cosmetics, Inc, Globe Telecomm, Lindberg - Subic, Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium, Inc (Ocean Adventure), Subic Bay Satellite Systems, Inc, Subic Protectors Security Agency, Morvilla Security Agency, Jean Lopez, Nicera Philippines, Colorpoint Classic, Jollibee, Gina de Leon, SBMA HR Department, Tesda, Olongapo Convention Center, and all those who participated and helped in the success of the event.

Hosted by Jocel Fajota and Eirween Thomas Davis, Instructors from Mondriaan Aura College and PMAPer Virgie Mendoza, the event provided the attendees with core knowledge and information about the conference thesis - Career and Employment Planning. It was an opportunity to call for substantial changes in the way the youth decide for their future professional endeavors.

Industrial relations summit

THE PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SOCIETY (PIRS), in cooperation with the University of the Philippines' School of Labor and Industrial Relations (UP Solair), will conduct an Industrial Relations Summit with the theme "Emerging Trends in Work and Work Relations" on Dec. 6, Thurs., 8 AM to 5 PM, at UP Solair, Diliman, Quezon City.

Participants will learn the latest trends, research and best practices in HR/IR from invited experts namely Deans Marie Aganon and Rene Ofreneo, Lawyers Benedicto E. Bitonio, Nick Barriatos and Alan Montano, Ruben Sapitula and Professors Ed Sison and Wency San Jose.

For registration or queries, contact UP Solair at tel. nos. 920-7717 (Fina); 981-8500 local 4071 (Letty) or 941-6170 (Ferdie) or email ferdie.atanacio@gmail.com.

Positive management seminar for supervisors

POSITIVE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR MAGNITUDE Human Resource Development, a training organization specializing in people development, announced its upcoming seminar-workshop entitled "Positive Management for Supervisors" at the Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo Street, Manila, on Dec. 6 and 7.

Managers, entrepreneurs, and supervisors will benefit from this 2-day seminar/workshop, as they will learn how to handle their subordinates, motivate them to improve performance, and discipline them effectively.

They will have the opportunity to learn goal-setting; practice interpersonal skills, and improve their communications ability to deal with all day-to-day employee situations.

Topics for this seminar include Performance Improvement, Correcting Poor Work Habits, Positive Motivation and Positive Discipline. Rafael Z. Perfecto, a well-known speaker in human resource management will conduct the seminar.

Perfecto is a former director of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), a Fellow in Personnel Management (FPM), and currently a consultant for top multinational companies.

To register, please call 0917-890-9595, Tel. 806-5743 or email magnitudehrd@yahoo.com. Early registration discount applies.

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MR. CAO JIE REN

TRANSCO SIGNS CONTRACT WITH CHINESE CONSTRUCTION FIRM FOR TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN LAGUNA

The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) recently signed a contract with Zhejiang Electric Transmission and Transformation Engineering Corporation for the supply and delivery of transmission line materials and construction of the Calamba Tower No. 50-Biñan 230-kV Transmission Line Project in Laguna. The project is the last component of the Batangas Transmission Reinforcement Project (BTRP) which is needed to deliver the steady supply of electricity to end-users in Metro Manila, Batangas, Laguna, and Quezon. Shown are from left: TransCo vice president Jules S. Alcantara and president Arthur N. Aguilar and Zhejiang vice presidents Cao Jie Ren and Hu Lie Xiang.

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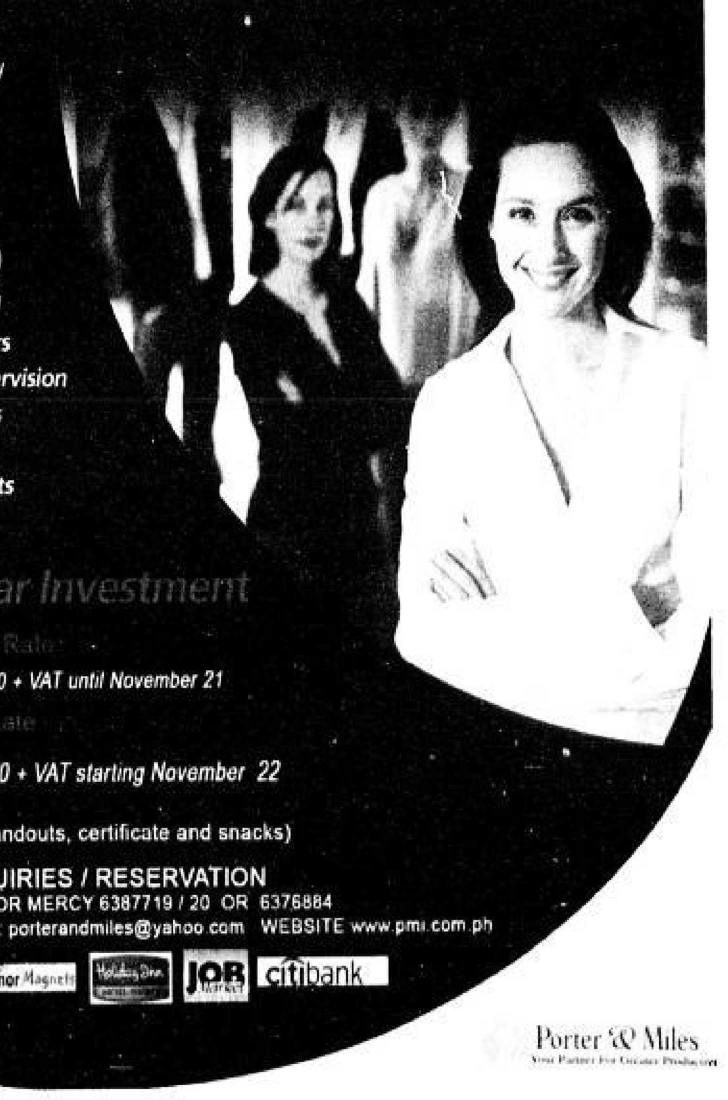

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What to expect when you lose your job

By Loree Cruz-Mante
Contributor

THE LOSS OF A JOB IS RARELY a welcome event. If retrenchment were called by any other name, it would still be a "bad" word.

Untraveled road. Retrenchment throws the retrenched on an untraveled, when the normal course of things is shaken, there will inevitably be the need to regain composure. The retrenched must learn to trust the shaken ground again.

Financial testing. There are many core issues that retrenchment puts to test. One of the most critical is financial security. With the loss of a job comes the loss of an income source from which to sustain life itself. The need to provide food, clothing and shelter does not stop when the income stops. There are still families to feed, loans to pay, medical needs and countless concerns.

Career loss. Another key issue is the loss of a career and with it a long list of career-related entanglements, such as self-worth, direction and life meaning. Where one's perception of value is measured in terms of a job, it becomes doubly difficult to feel worthy and useful when employment ends. For many people, a career determines status, wealth and power; little else is left without it.

Disrupted friendships. Relationships are also jeopardized when one is let go. Friendships will have to be nurtured outside the workplace, with much less frequency and ease. All the good times associated with work life will have to stop. Retrenchment temporarily halts relationships until these cherished social interactions find a new place for nurturing.

Uncertain future. Perhaps the most critical issue is that retrenchment destroys the certainty of a future one has envisioned. Futures are often determined within the context of a career where people look at what's ahead in terms of the financial, psychological and social gains from the fruits of employment. When this picture is defaced, so does the trust and faith in the future.

Retrenchment rituals. The effects of retrenchment are felt at different stages and with varying intensity in the period surrounding exit from the workplace. But at no time are they more pronounced as in the last few days before the final workday. It is during this period that the retrenched go through the rituals of retrenchment.

These retrenchment rituals constitute the little inevitable "ceremonies" that one must go through in order to disengage from employment. These are small, seemingly harmless but energy-draining and heart-wrenching things that one must do to disengage, cut ties, and move away from one's now ex-employer. Very often, it is these rituals that deliver the heavier blow, the gross reminders of a life chapter ending and forever gone.

Turnover of symbols. One such retrenchment ritual is the turnover of company symbols, property, and equipment. How does it feel to surrender a company ID one has worn for many years and to be issued a temporary paper pass for a one-time entry into company premises to claim the last paycheck? How does it feel to purge a company-issued laptop of personal files and remove one's user account from it? How does it feel to empty one's desk onto a cardboard box, including the photo frame, birthday card and pencil stand that once graced one's little corner space?

"It feels like I'm losing a part of myself," said one of my clients. "I feel relieved that I am now free from many midnight hours of cramming to meet deadlines," said another. "I know that a chapter of my life is ending and that if I let go of the symbols willingly, I would be much more at peace," said a third.

Goodbye rituals. Another ritual is that of saying goodbye. These rituals may be curt and brief, or extended and drawn out. They may be emotional and physical, or stiff and formal. They may be rituals of genuine loss or grief, or matter-of-fact exchanges of well wishes.

Making sense of it all. Perhaps the most significant ritual is that of coming to terms with what that whole chapter of work and life is all about. This type of ritual takes many, many forms. Each person who has been let go must determine what best stimulates introspection and insight. It may be a solitary walk in a park or mindless walking back-and-forth in the mall to stir up reflection. It may happen on a church pew or a library, the steps of a building or a comfortable recliner. It may come in the midst of midnight quiet or a child's squeals to be fed or a chance meeting with a former officemate who asks, "How are you?"

The ritual of insight. Whatever the shape of this last retrenchment ritual is not really important. What is critical is that those who have been let go must make sense of this life-changing event. They must face the change squarely and prepare to meet the challenges of transition. They must make time and space to dig into their spiritual, physical and emotional reserves and harness all in their power to bring about hope. They must work towards thankfulness for all the years spent with their previous employer. They must seek to close this life chapter and call it a blessing.

Emerging strong. If the retrenched are to emerge from their retrenchment experience enriched, stronger and better able to steer their future, they must make time for these rituals of retrenchment. They are symbolic markers of maturity and growth. They let the retrenched know with unshakeable certainty that they can look ahead with hopefulness because they have gifts to cherish from the past.

(The author is a free-lance HR consultant, trainor, writer and career consultant with Drake Beam Morin Philippines. Feedback at lcmante@yahoo.com)

Grieve in advance for your own death

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
Ernie O. Cecilia

IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE I started working. I never got promoted in my entire life. Worse, I have been bypassed for promotion at least three times—you can say that I had a triple bypass at this early stage of my career.

Every time I get bypassed for a promotion, I feel so down that it affects my performance. I had great hopes for a great career, since I had good grades in school. My friends tell me I lack positive thinking. How can I think positively about my career, when there seems to be nothing positive about it—except that I still have a job. They also say that I can't handle past failures, I have a lot of fears. I dream a lot about my own death and other fears. I think these fears are affecting my career.

I try to think positive, but I get disappointed a lot when negative results turn out. What should I do? Can you give me tips to drastically improve my thinking and my career?

Still Hopeful

I like your choice of a pen name—Still Hopeful. It does not sound negative enough, although your long letter was so full of negatives that I had to compress it.

Let me start with a positive note—you are not alone and you can overcome your defeats. There are millions of career people who share the same predicament. I am not going to preach about how to get promoted—just check out my books on the subject. I will delve deeper this time.

Hope

I'm glad you haven't lost hope. When the going gets tough, it seems difficult to hope for a better future. If it is extremely difficult for you to make the present moment rich and satisfying for you, you can at least make it exciting by having hope. They say that hope for a better future makes difficult moments a little more bearable. If things are that bad at present, learn to say to yourself that "the best is yet to come."

If you are so down, the good news is that the only way to go is up.

Fairness and justice

Sometimes, one would rather think that life is unfair. Sometimes, no matter how well-meaning you are and how hard you try, you still don't achieve the results you want. When you look around, you see bad people doing better. Other times, bad things happen to good people like you, while the bad people seem to have a never -ending stream of happiness and good luck.

Don't look for fairness or justice. This world is not made for your convenience—it's made just the way it is, full of imperfections. Master your craft and you will succeed in what you do—despite the imperfections in this world.

Fears

Every human being has fears. The difference lies in the amount of courage that one has to face his own fears. Beware of your fears, because they can spawn other equally negative emotions, such as anger, self-doubt, low self-esteem and other emotions that tend to erode your personal effectiveness.

Find out what you are afraid of. A lot of men are afraid of three things—loss or failure, death and wife. It is all right to have fears. But when the fear is unnecessary, or when it is bigger than the actual danger being conceived, the fear becomes unreasonable and difficult to handle.

Here's good news: most fears never materialize. A university study says only five percent does.

Fear and anger are so interrelated. Whenever I encounter an angry person, I savor the thought in my mind, "What is this guy afraid of?"

Grieving in advance

Some will think that what follows is a crazy advice. You said you dream a lot about your own death. If it is of any consolation to you, I also dreamt about my death a thousand times. At first, I always shudder at the thought whenever I wake up. Then, I begin to realize that my dream will someday be a reality—I will die some day. When I realized that everybody would die anyway, I began to accept the harsh reality and overcome my fear. Here's more.

I did not only dream of my own death. I attended my own wake. I grieved about my death. At first, I go through the usual process of denial, bargaining, anger, depression before acceptance. Grieving in advance for my own death has done a lot of good. First, I freed myself from the fear of my death—I am no longer afraid to die. Second, I am able to go on with my life, choosing what I want to do, doing what makes me happy and productive, mostly ensuring that I live longer, and not spending my waking hours worrying about what I used to fear most—death.

Choose your thoughts

Driving in the city is always an adventure. I used to blame the slow driver in front of me, for making me angry. In retrospect, I think that that driver does not even know me. He doesn't even know that I exist—how can he make me angry then?

I realize, it is my thoughts, my anger-producing thoughts that make me angry. I realize that we are all capable of choosing our own thoughts at any time, in any place, no matter what the situation is. You can choose happy thoughts, nerve-wracking thoughts, or any kind of thought. It's your own call.

Humor

Life is too serious—that's why we need a sense of humor. The world is a bit crazy and I don't take it too seriously. Sometimes, I try to go a little bit crazy—before the world drives me crazy. I laugh at life, I laugh at myself, and I enjoy it.

I also got bypassed once in a promotion. I almost cried, had a beer or two, and when I got sober, I realized that those who get hired, promoted or elected are not necessarily those best qualified for the job. More often than not, they are those who know best how to get hired, promoted or elected. From then on, I learned how to get hired, promoted and elected.

I got invited (pirated) by large conglomerates in my last three jobs. The first time I ran for the PMAP board, I lost by a toss coin for the 14th position. The next two times I ran, I topped the elections—and I got elected PMAP president hands down. As a service to humanity, I wrote two career books—"How to Get a Job" and "How to Keep Your Job" (available in popular book stores today.)

Think positively

This is an overused cliché. Of course, I suggest that you do it every time. However, you must realize that there two types of positive thinking—realistic and unrealistic or Pollyanna-type. A realistic salesman who thinks positively knows that whenever he makes 10 calls and makes 10 sales presentations, he will likely get nine rejections and make one sale.

The Pollyanna-type of positive thinker will approach his day's work by convincing himself, "I'm going to make a sale every time I make a presentation. Think positive, think positive."

The Pollyanna-type positive thinker will be brutally jolted by the reality that not every call or presentation will lead to a sale.

In closing, let me leave you with a favorite prayer that hangs in my bedroom wall. "God, grant me the courage to change those things that I can change; the serenity to accept the things that I cannot change; and the wisdom to know the difference."

(The author is chair of IR Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce and chair of ECOP's Long Range Policy Planning Committee. He is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. Feedback at ernie_cecilia @yahoo.com)

Gospel: Luke 21: 5-19

You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives.

Life's security

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

FOR MANY, WORK PROVIDES SOME KIND OF SECURITY for them and their families through the material benefits and compensation it could gain. It is therefore regarded as a very important value in their life, which would drive them to work continually until almost the last breath of their life. Some would even sacrifice their time for their family and children or risk losing their health working so hard just in order to get more money to insure the family's financial security. But, like any temporal or passing thing on this earth valued in itself, work would not satisfy completely the human desire for life's fullness, peace and happiness.

Yet, work and the workplace could still be an essential part in the attainment of one's fulfillment in life according to God's plan. When they are accepted as part of God's will for us, and when we work believing that we also do His will and would persevere in bearing all the pains and sufferings our work or the workplace brings to us—we would be insuring our lives with the salvation promised by Jesus.

As God assures the believer that "not a hair on (his) head will be destroyed," I believe that He would also guarantee that everyone in the workplace who does his job with faith and love, offering every detail and even the slightest of it to Him, could rest assured that not an ounce of energy put in his work would be wasted. God's love will transform every single strand of the believer's work and everything with it, into a source of human satisfaction and a sure pledge of eternal happiness. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

'Ma-politika' or 'taklesa?'

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

IN THE WORKPLACE, IT'S NOT HARD TO FIND COWORKers who act as though they're running for public office—they're popular because they're always nice to everybody. But that doesn't necessarily mean they're sincere—they just like to be liked, sometimes at the expense of truthfulness, so that at times we say they are *ma-politika*. On the other hand, you'll find very few coworkers willing to endure being disliked or even hated just so they can speak their minds out. Sometimes you appreciate their being frank and transparent about their opinions, but as "truth tellers" they hardly become the office darlings because most people do not enjoy hearing the truth about their situations or themselves. In fact, they are labeled *taklesa* (tactless).

I have seen both types in operation and I find that each of them have their own giftedness to contribute to the workplace. *Ma-politika*'s affirming stance can easily elicit cooperation from others; while *Taklesa*'s frankness can be eye-opening for the complacent. However, I tend to think that it is honesty of purpose that determines which of them can truly lift the workplace from the sphere of mere socioeconomic and physical existence and turn it into a place of fruitful fulfillment. Those who are disliked or hated for being truthful—more than the *ma-politika* types—could become the real agents of change in the workplace because they (unwittingly) serve as prophets, sensing hidden dangers, pointing out errors, and challenging the status quo. But their boldness can make a difference only if they mirror the compassion and wisdom of Jesus in their persons—their effectiveness depends on the witness of their lives. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

DAPAT NATING ALAGAAN ANG ISA'T ISA!

Junior Inquirer

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 86

E-mail: ji@inquirer.com.ph

WHAT'S INSIDE:

This girl has the coolest classroom in the world! Find out where it is on Page 3.

Letters from the Wild

By Ruth L. Navarra

A VISAYAN WARTY PIG, A polar bear, and a turtle wrote letters to humans and they all said one thing: it's good to live.

Well, at least, that's what three young writers imagined the animals would say if they could write.

In the recently concluded Universal Postal Union-PhilPost 36th International Letter-writing Competition, children were asked to write letters, imagining themselves as wild animals threatened by environmental or climate change. The event gathered over 500 letters from kids aged 15 and below, from public and private schools all over the country. The letters came just in time for the World Post and Letter Writing Day on Oct. 9.

My dear stewards,

Greetings! You might find it strange to receive a letter from me but I am writing in the direst of times and in behalf of my species before everything proves too late.

I am Marty. I am a three-year old Visayan Warty Pig. I am what your scientists call a sus cebifrons, a wild pig endemic to the Visayan Islands only. As I am an endemic species, I can only be found in the Philippines and only in the Visayas. I have three pairs of fleshy "warts" on my face that is why I am called a warty pig. These help protect my face when I forage for food and provide defense from the tusks of other pigs. Despite my tusks and my w

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of dehydration

Please stop swidden farming, it dries up the land. It is not only bad for us but also for you. We, warty pigs do not have sweat glands. We need those small pockets of watering and mud holes to dip our bodies lest we die of dehydration. We need the mud to cover our bodies as protection from the sun. With the El Niño phenomenon, drought has now become one of our major problems. Water is running out from our little oases while the increasing human population is threatening to run us out of our natural habitat.

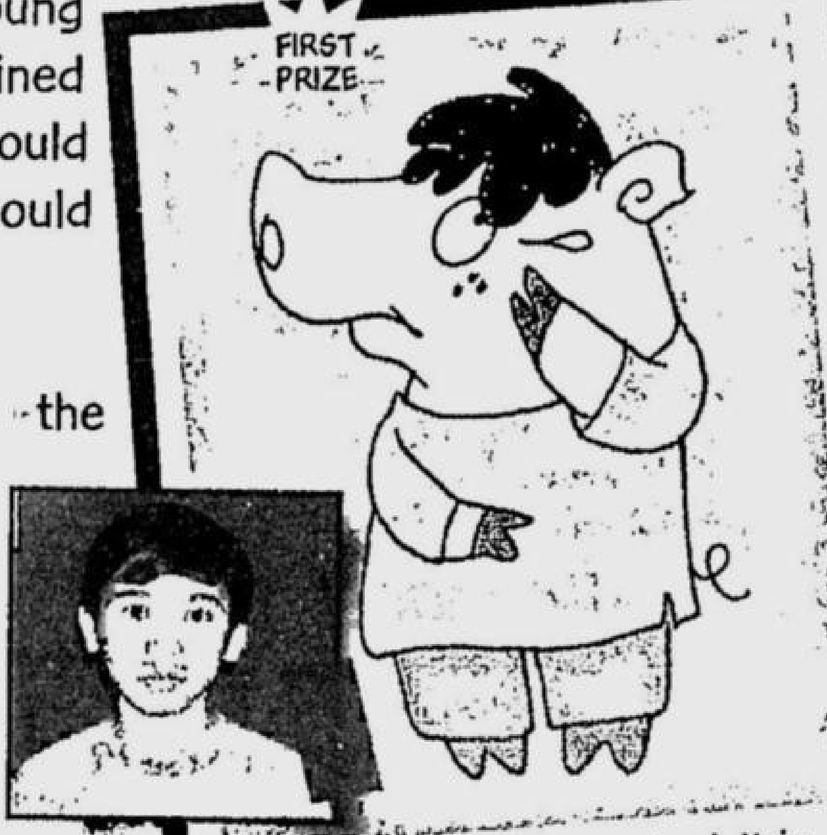
Please do not turn mountains into golf courses and posh residential places. While the view from a vantage point is always beautiful, you are also encroaching on what is left of our homes. Please learn to think for other creatures and share what nature has given to you.

The world is home to a variety of creatures, some even older and might even yet be unknown to you. Let us learn to co-habit in this one Earth that has been given to us. Please take good care of us, for you have been given the custody of Earth by God. Like you, we also dream of a better Earth where food is abundant, where home is where the heart is and where life and death is in the natural course of things.

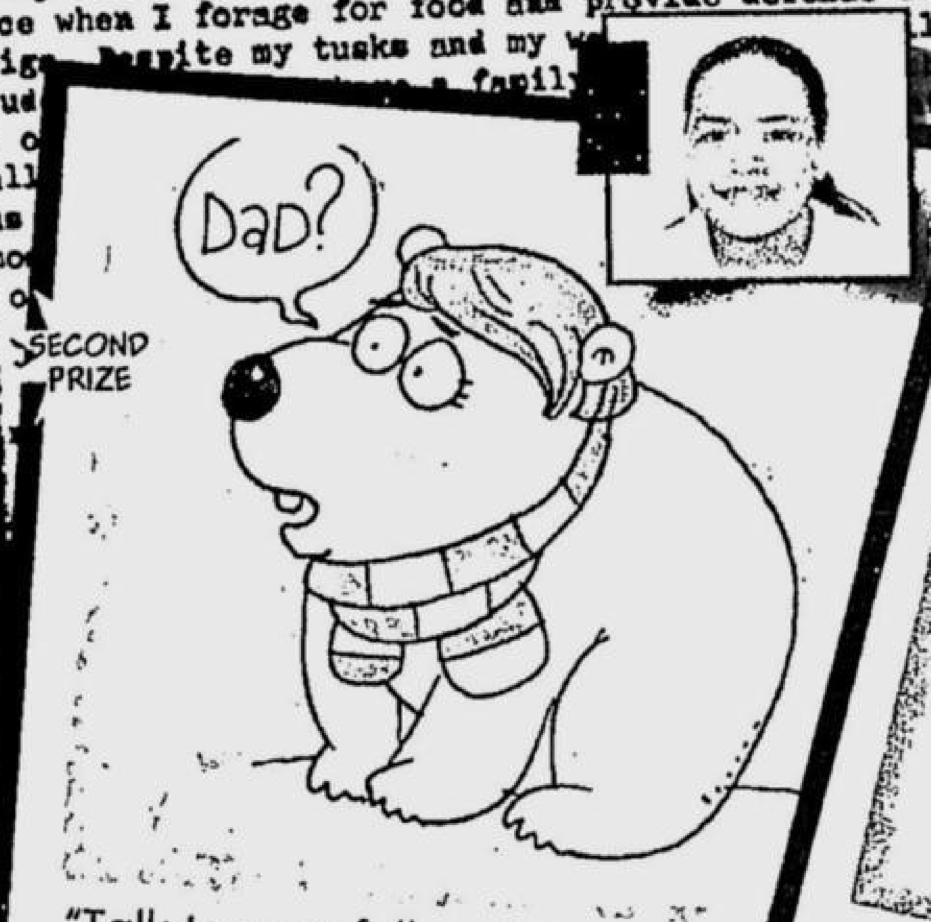
I am a warty pig. I am an orphan. I am endangered. Please spare me, do not hunt me.

Sincerely,

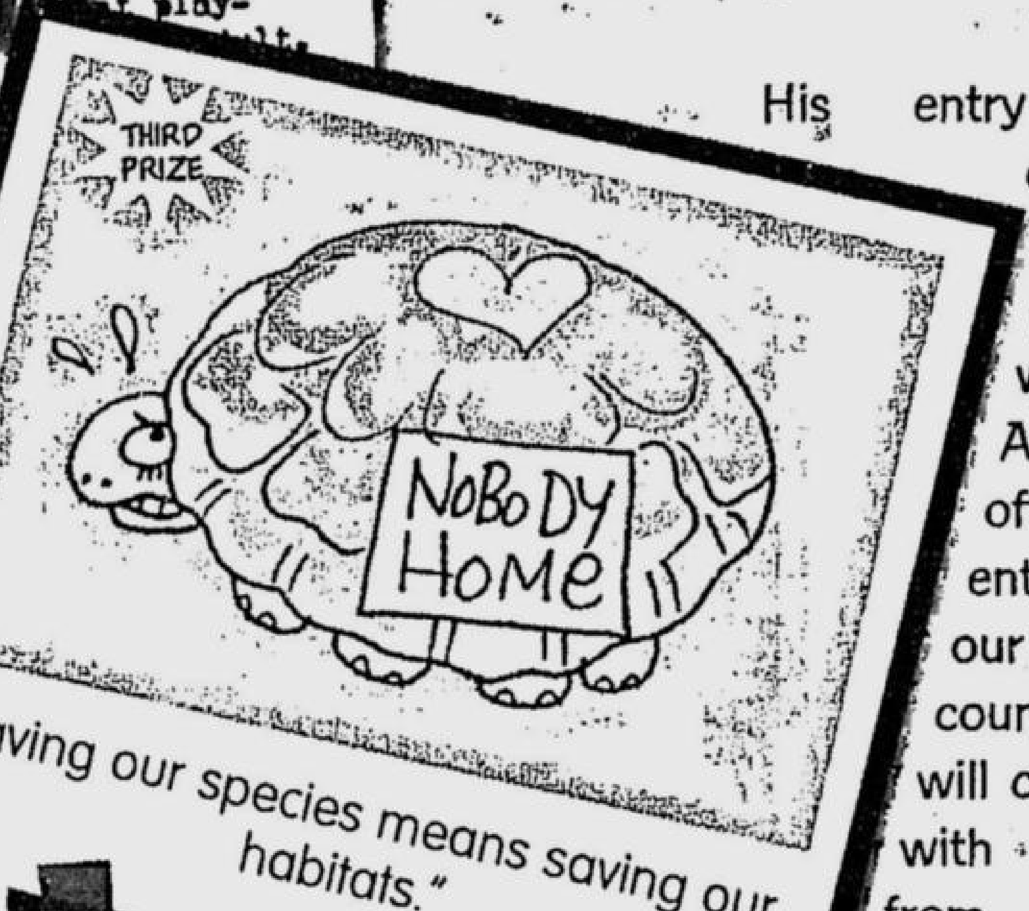
Marty



"Let us learn to co-habit in this one earth..."



"Talk to your fellow humans about going against global warming."



"Saving our species means saving our habitats."

"My coach and I chose to write about the Visayan warty pig because we know that it's on the endangered species list," says eleven-year-old Roque Mareju Vincent Abaigar of Cebu City. Roque says that instead of an animal found in other countries, he chose something close to home.

His entry was chosen as the grand winner. As the official entry of our country, it will compete with letters from other countries.

"Even if there are sub-species of the warty pig in Cebu, I have never seen one myself save from the pictures in the Internet," he admits. "It could be because I live in the city, or it could be because there's a golf course where the home of the warty pigs should have been."

Roque created the character of Marty, a warty pig that is one year

Letters/ p. 5

Guyito's Corral

WELCOME TO MY CORRAL!

This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings about anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!

Send all contributions to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!

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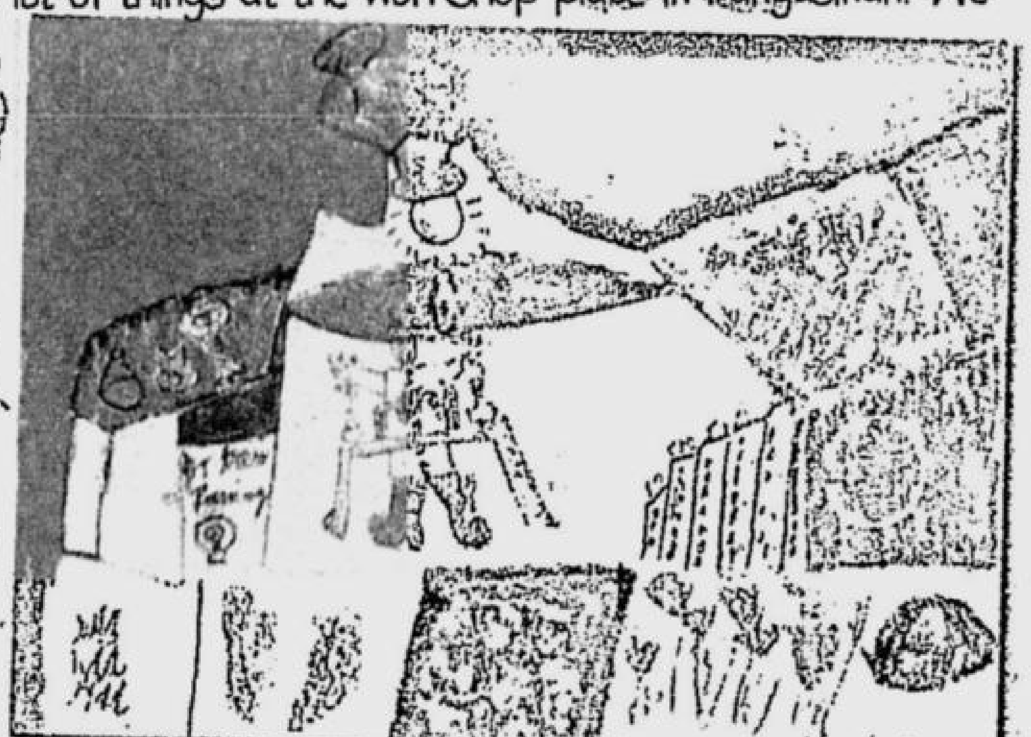
2005 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee Hall of Fame

Journal

Strengthening my dream

By Nickolo Anton Fundan Lahoz
10 years old San Pablo City, Laguna

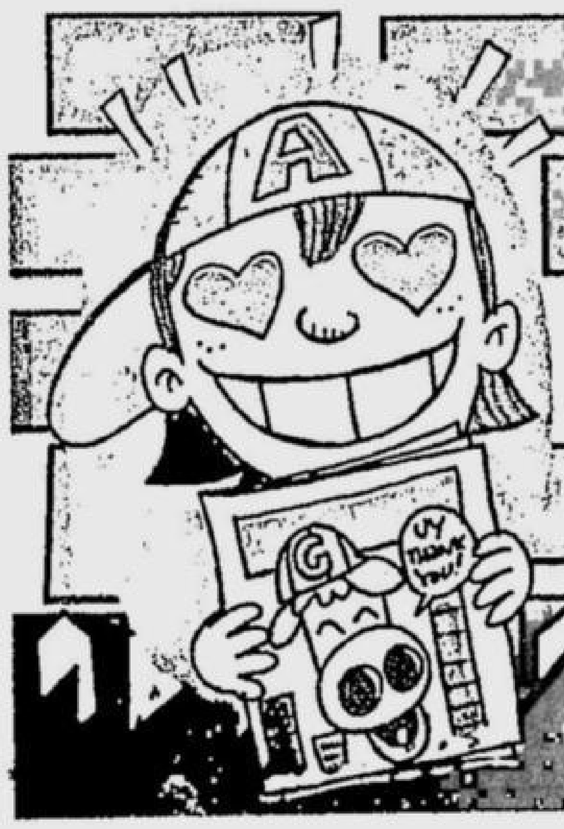
LAST OCTOBER, I HAD THE WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE of joining the National Children's Science Interactive Workshop that was organized by the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs. It was my first time to join a workshop like this, and I had so much fun.



We did a lot of things at the workshop place in Pangasinan. We were able to become "little scientists." The activity that I enjoyed most was making mayonnaise for food chemistry. I was really interested because I am a mayonnaise lover. I can eat sandwiches with just mayonnaise and tomatoes.

My experience in this workshop strengthens my dream to become a scientist someday. You see, I want to find a cure for my ailment, Type I Diabetes Mellitus. I also want to help other people with this ailment so that there will be no more TypeIDM patients anymore.

This is one of the experiences that will be etched in my heart forever. I can't wait to see the other participants next year!



JUNIOR INQUIRER

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When I was still in prep, I prayed every night. One time, I asked myself: does God really hear my prayer?

I made a wish that time for something special. I wished I had a pet of my own. After days of praying for it, I gave up. Maybe God heard my prayer and He answered me, but His answer was not "yes." Years passed and my wish did not come true.

Then one summer, when I was in grade three, my wish came true. I realized God did hear my prayer when I was still in prep and He answered me. But, His answer that time was "Wait." I realized that it was just right because at that time, I still couldn't take care my own pet.

Now, I never let a day pass without reciting a prayer.

—Alyssa Lenra L. de Guzman
9 years old
Commonwealth,
Quezon City

Thanks for sharing your story, Alyssa! We hope other JI readers share their experiences as well.
—JI Staff

You win!

Alyssa gets a Itsy Bitsy Bratz Babyz Mini Playset—Vinessa's Pop-eroni Pizza. Itsy Bitsy Bratz are the smallest version of Bratz Babyz.

Come and visit the Bratz month-long exhibit at Kidz Station Rockwell. For details please call 3719978 loc. 102. Bratz Itsy Bitsy is distributed by Ban Kee Trading.

Bratz Itsy Bitsy
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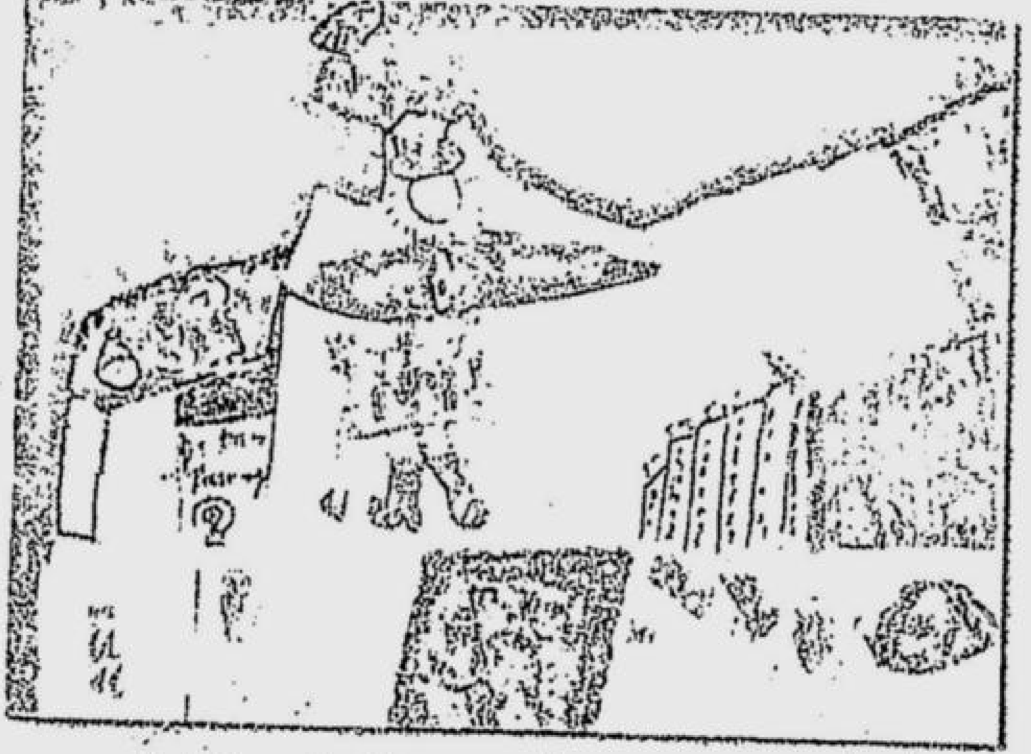

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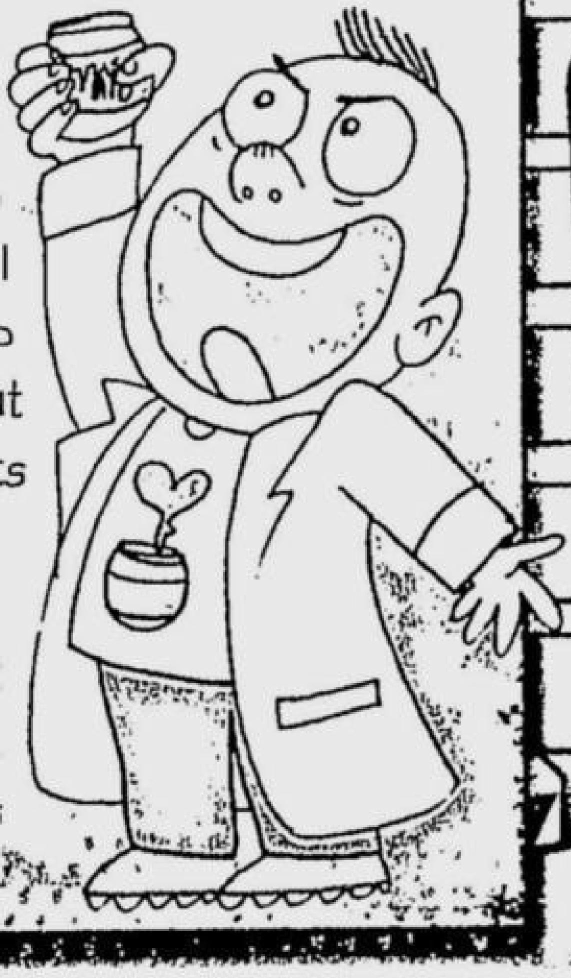

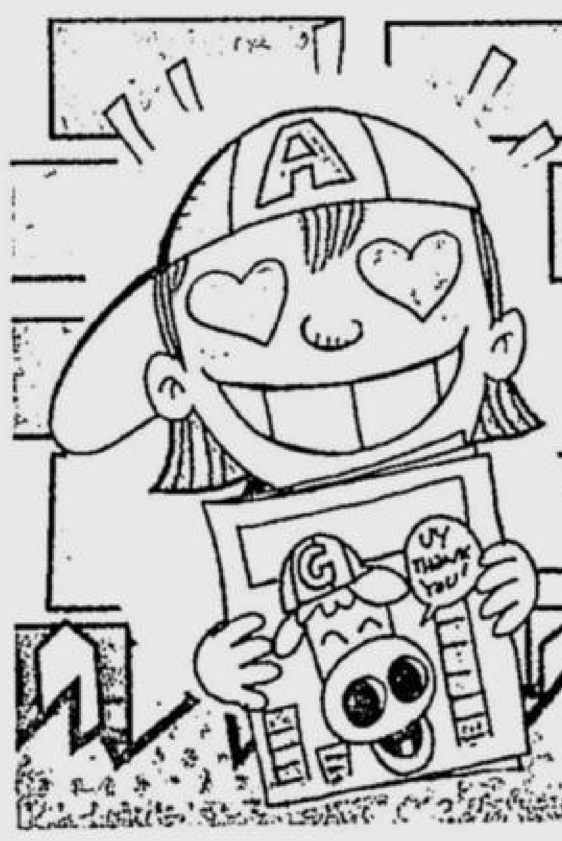

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WassUp World?

Tokyo, JAPAN

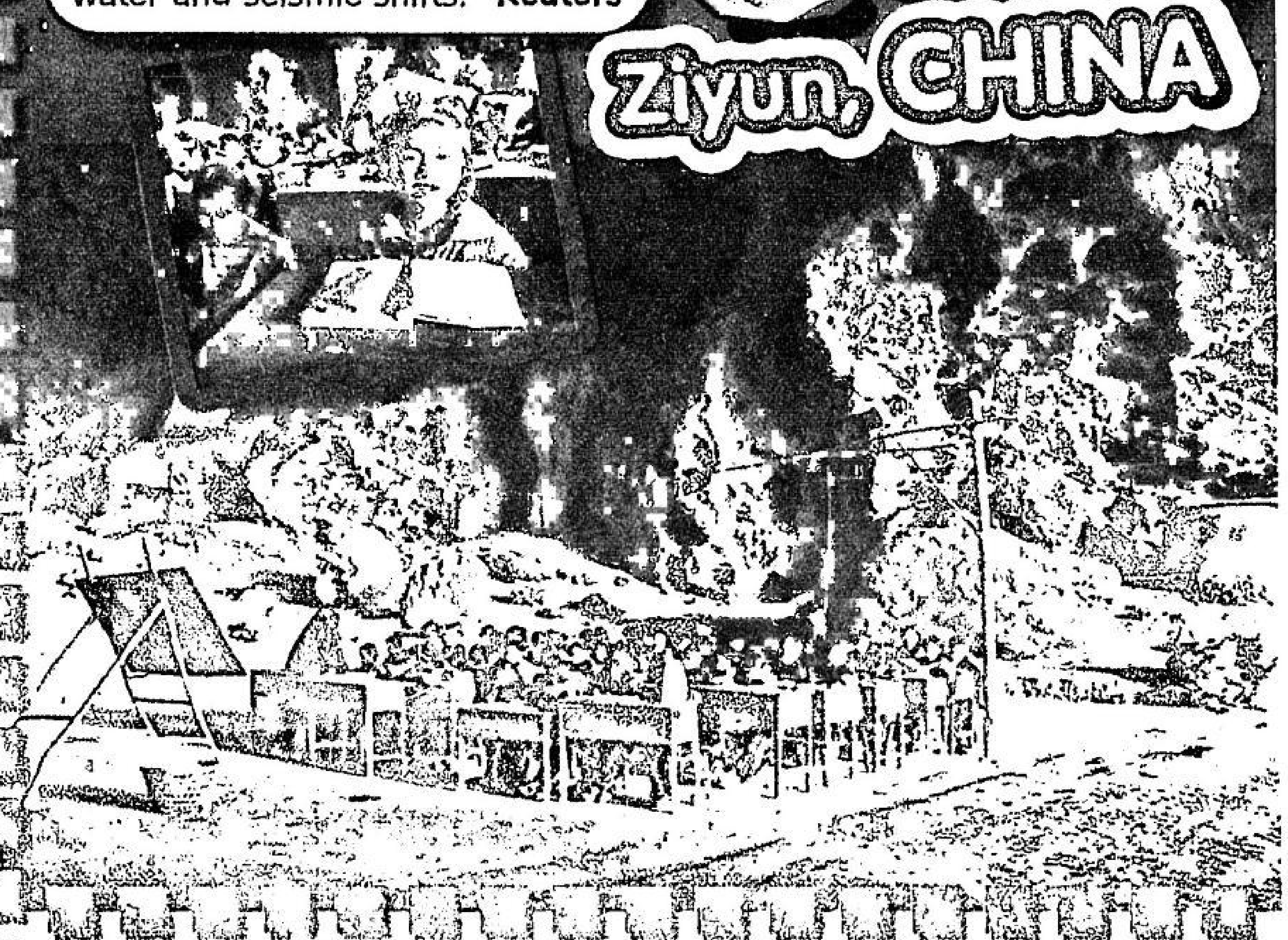
All for blue

TOKYO Tower is illuminated by blue lights to mark the first United Nations World Diabetes Day. Landmarks in different parts of Japan and the world were similarly lit in blue, which is the theme color for World Diabetes Day. The events are part of an effort to raise awareness of the disease. **AP**

Ziyun, CHINA

To the school cave!

EAT your heart out, Batman! These children attend class at the Dongzhong (literally means "in cave") primary school in Ziyun county. The school is built in a huge, aircraft hanger-sized natural cave, carved out of a mountain over thousands of years by wind, water and seismic shifts. **Reuters**



Port Kavkaz, RUSSIA

Uh-oil!

THIS bird covered with fuel oil is only one of thousands of birds that became victims of an oil spill in Port Kavkaz on Nov. 13. According to the governor of the disaster-hit region, more than 30,000 birds have been killed by the thousands of tons of oil that leaked after a heavy storm broke a tanker apart . **AP**

Taipei, TAIWAN

Toilet treats

WOULD you want to eat while seated on a toilet bowl? These customers at the Modern Toilet diner in Taipei don't seem to mind. All seats in the diner are made from toilet bowls. Sink faucets and "WC" signs appear throughout the three-storey facility, one of 12 in an island-wide chain of eateries with a toilet theme. **Reuters**

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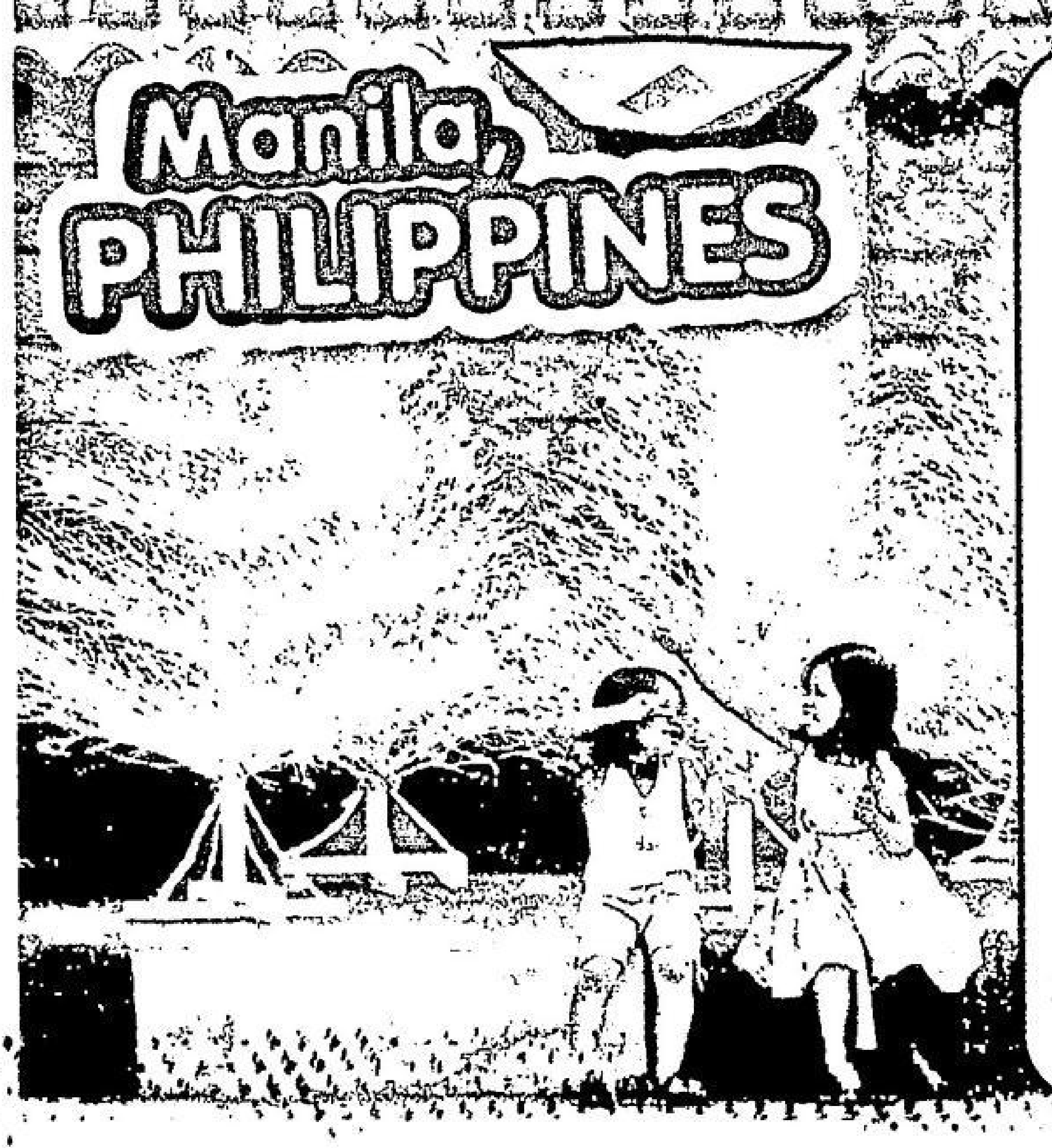
MODERN TOILET

Manila, PHILIPPINES

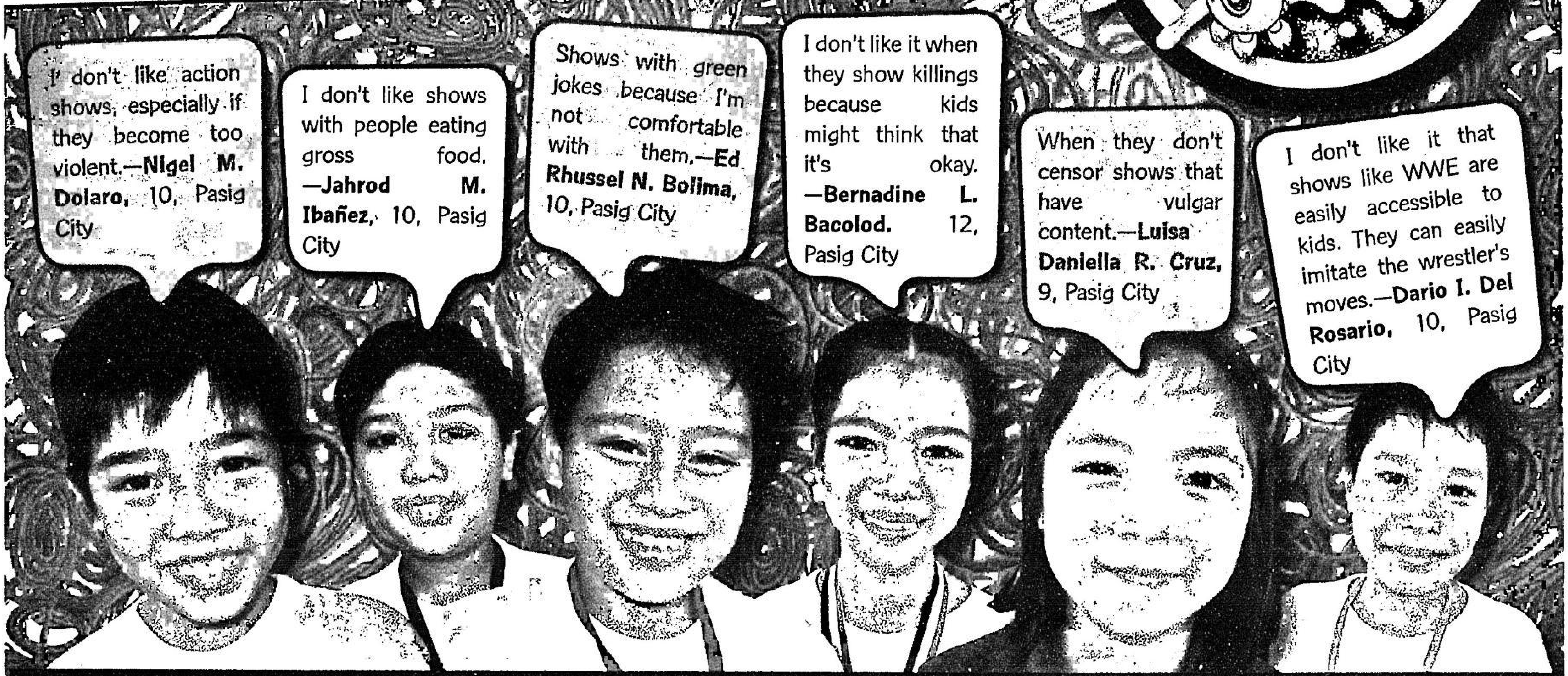


Pasko na naman!

FILIPINO children play in front of Christmas trees made of dry twigs. Even if Christmas is still more than a month away, these trees are on display along a street in Manila. Christmas is celebrated fervently in our country, Asia's only predominantly Catholic nation. **Reuters**

WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ON TV?

Think Out Loud!



I don't like action shows, especially if they become too violent.—**Nigel M. Dolaro,** 10, Pasig City

I don't like shows with people eating gross food. —**Jahrod M. Ibañez,** 10, Pasig City

Shows with green jokes because I'm not comfortable with them.—**Ed Rhussel N. Bolima,** 10, Pasig City

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Mirror mirror on the wall...

Who is the fairytale princess who gets transported from her magical land to the gritty streets of New York in the Disney movie, "Enchanted"?

- *A) Rapunzel*
- *B) Belle*
- *C) Giselle*
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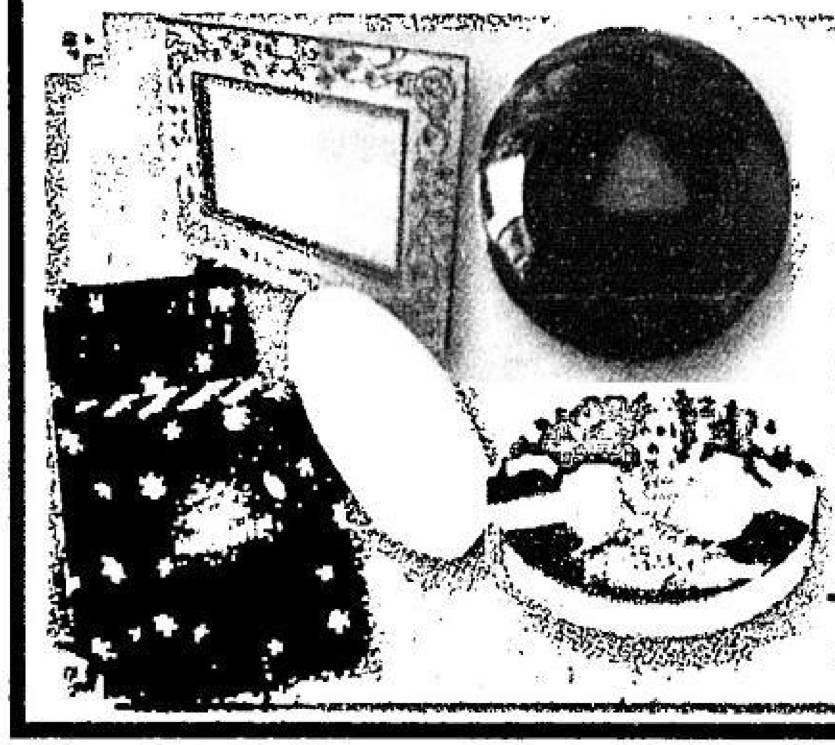

Ten lucky readers who will answer correctly will get a Magic Answer Ball, set of stickers, photo frame and a manhole paper pad. Email your answers with your complete name, age and address to ji@inquirer.com.ph on or before November 20, 2007.

Out There

WASTE MARKETS. Whoever said there's no cash in trash? Clean up your stock rooms and bring your junk to the Waste Market on Nov. 23, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the TriNoma Parking Lot, Quezon City. Help the environment and earn money at the same time! Tell your parents to bring the following for proper disposal and recycling: broken office/home electrical and electronic appliance, used lead-acid batteries such as vehicle and UPS batteries, nonworking and obsolete computers and monitors, empty ink and toner cartridges, plastic and mineral products, paper and carton products, and empty Tetra Pak cartons. For more information, please call Ayala Foundation at 752-1084 and look for Tin, Jess or Adel. You may also email swm@ayalafoundation.org.

* * *

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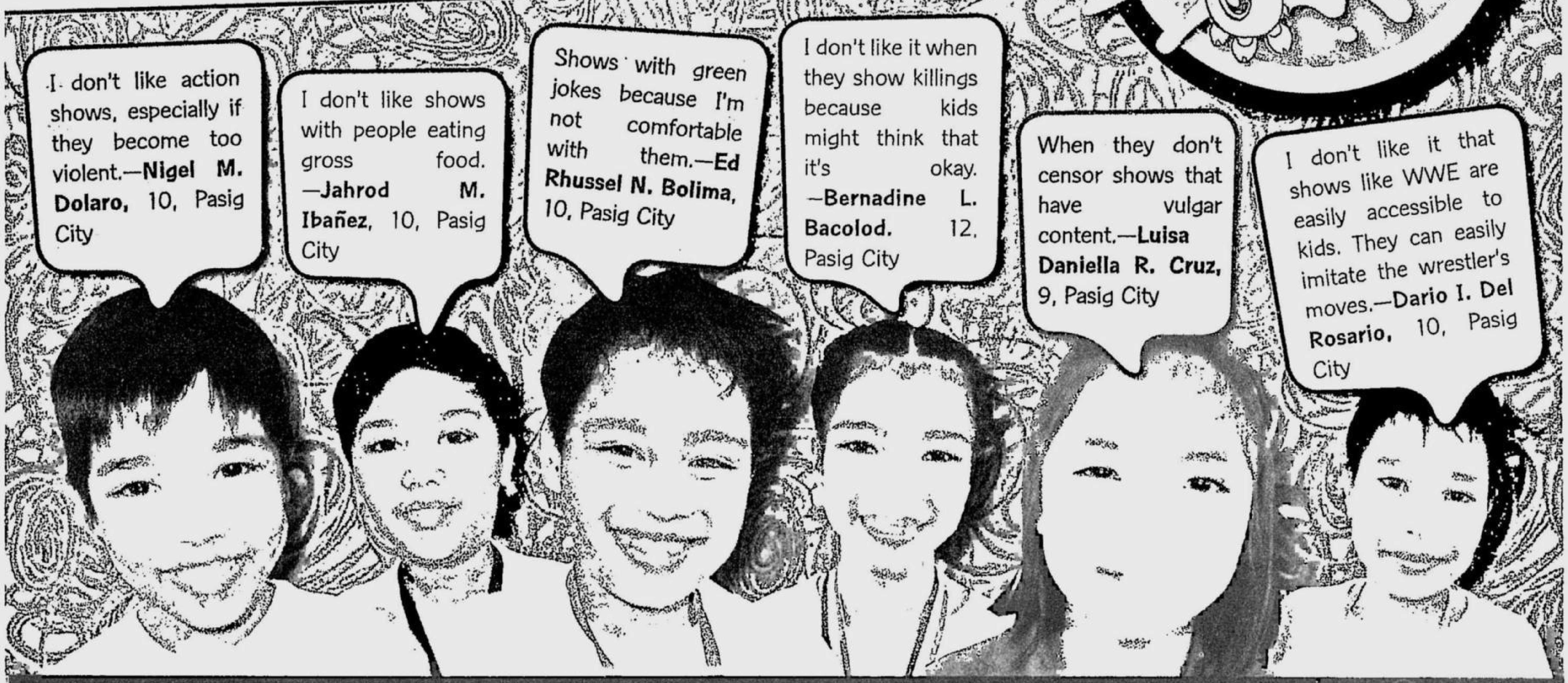
* * *

JUNGLE GIRL. Watch and learn as Bindi Irwin takes to the treetops this December on Animal Planet's "Bindi: The Jungle Girl". From her two-story treehouse situated high in the jungle, Bindi bubbles over with excitement as she introduces viewers to her wonderful world of wildlife. Produced by Best Picture Show for Discovery Kids Channel, Bindi: The Jungle Girl premieres on Dec. 3, 6 p.m. with replays every Saturday at 4 p.m.

BINDI

WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ON TV?

Think Out Loud!



I don't like action shows, especially if they become too violent.—**Nigel M. Dolaro,** 10, Pasig City

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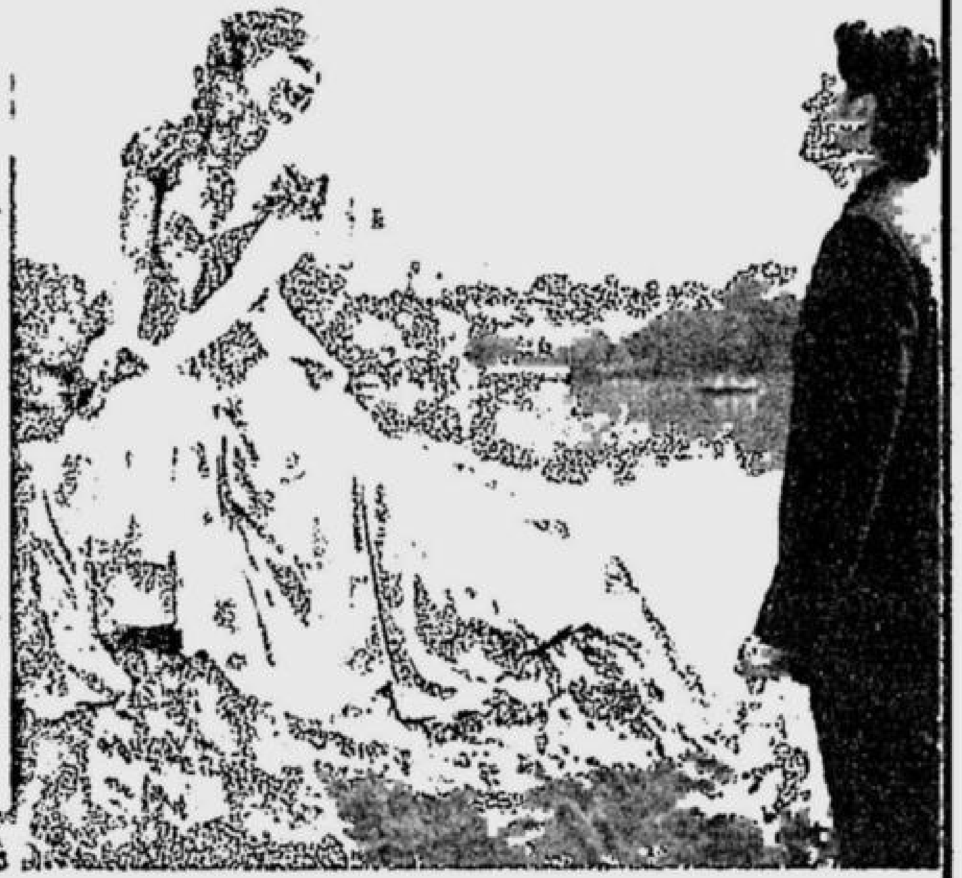

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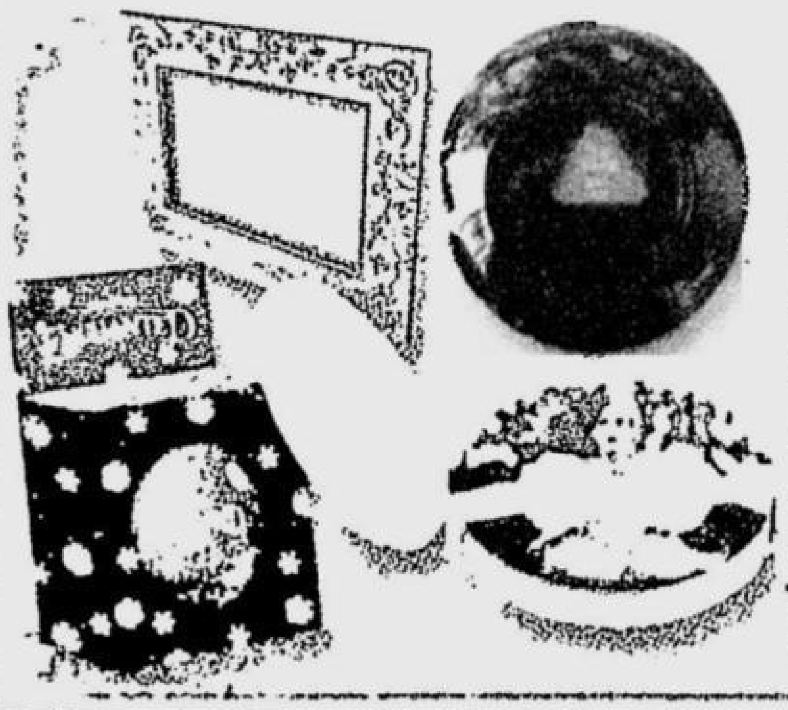

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BINDI

For or by Kids

Soft Milk

By Sofia Barrera,
8 years old, Makati City

I saw the Milky Way.

Come dancing down to Earth,

Softly,

Touching the ground,

With a shimmering gown.

She gave me a soft white smile,

And she gave me a bucketful of stars!

Then she left with a shining flash.

ILLUSTRATION BY BLEPS CARLOS

Letters from the wild

(from page 1)

away from adulthood. In his letter, Marty described in detail how he lost his father in a trap set out by hunters. He also shared how he lost his mother and siblings to a forest fire caused by *kaingin*.

Kaingin is deliberately setting fire to a forest, in order to get coal and clear the area for farming.

"I wanted Marty to have a family. I wanted him to have someone he cares about because I know Filipinos have strong family ties. That way, whoever reads 'his' letter could relate how hard it is to lose someone you love," says Roque.

Second-prize winner Angelita Bombarda, 15, of Bauan, Batangas takes a cue from the popular documentary "The Inconvenient Truth" and wrote about a young polar bear named Anj.

Anj grew up with her parents telling her that "humans" were meant to protect them from extinction. But there came a time when her father did not return after going out to search for food. Anj also heard rumors of global warming and its effects on her family.

Third-prize winner Andrea Bernarte, 13, of Naga City calls attention to the plight of the Chinese soft-shelled turtle. These gentle creatures have survived for two hundred million years. But now, they are going extinct because they are killed to be eaten, and their shells are used for medicine.

All the animals end "their" letters with the hope that they would actually be heard and that humans would do something to help them. They hope that someday, their children would be able to live their life fully and peacefully.

"I hope that the government will hear us and be able to pass some laws protecting the animals like stricter laws on illegal logging," says Roque. "Also, if we ourselves stop polluting our environment, we can do our part to help them."

RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

ENTER THE BATTLEFIELD OF LEGENDS! VALKYRIE, THE FREE-TO-PLAY SERVER, IS HERE! NEO WEAPONS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE ARMORY OF THE GODS! CELEBRATE EPISODE XV: RACHEL! FOR DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH

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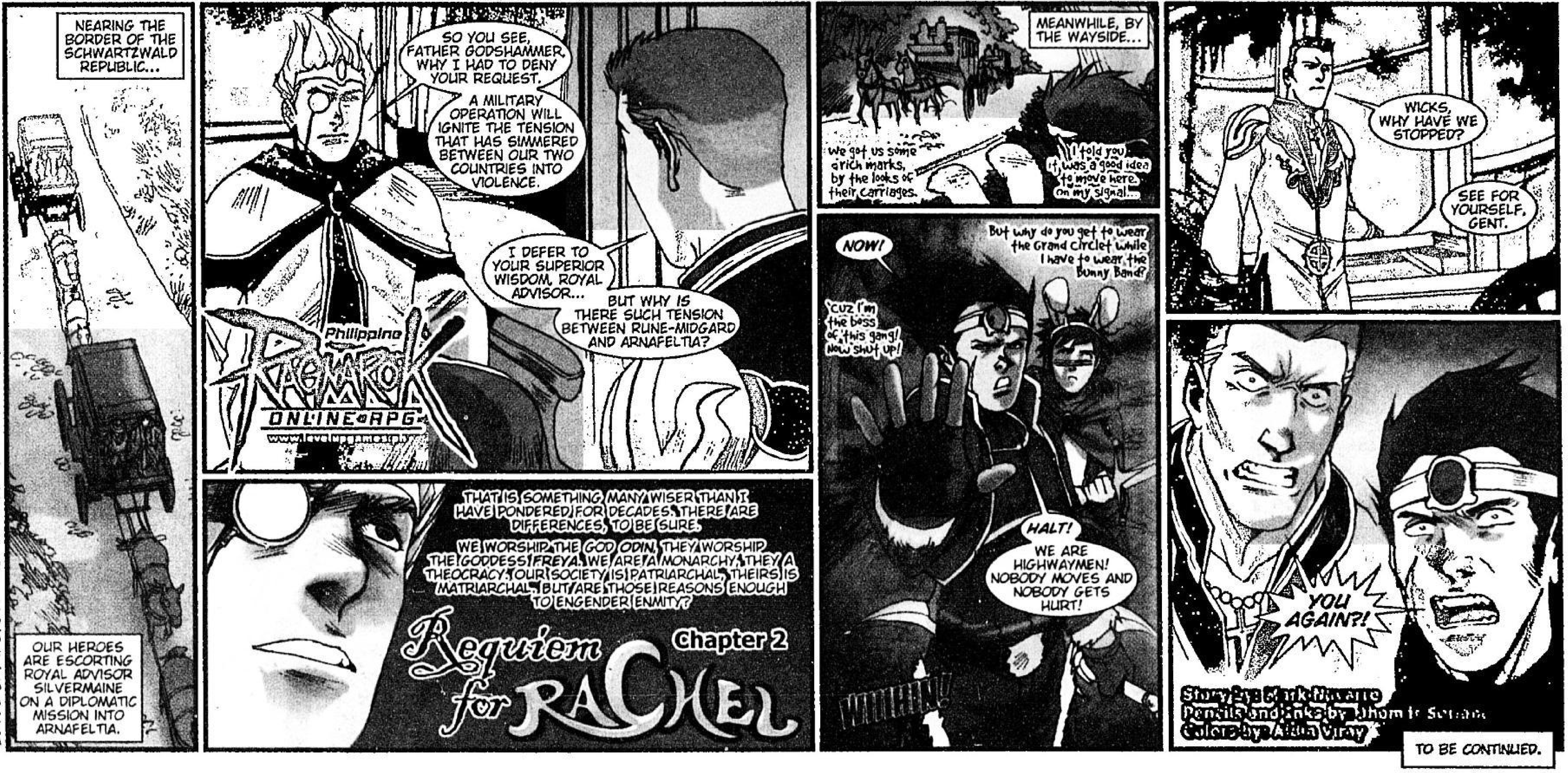
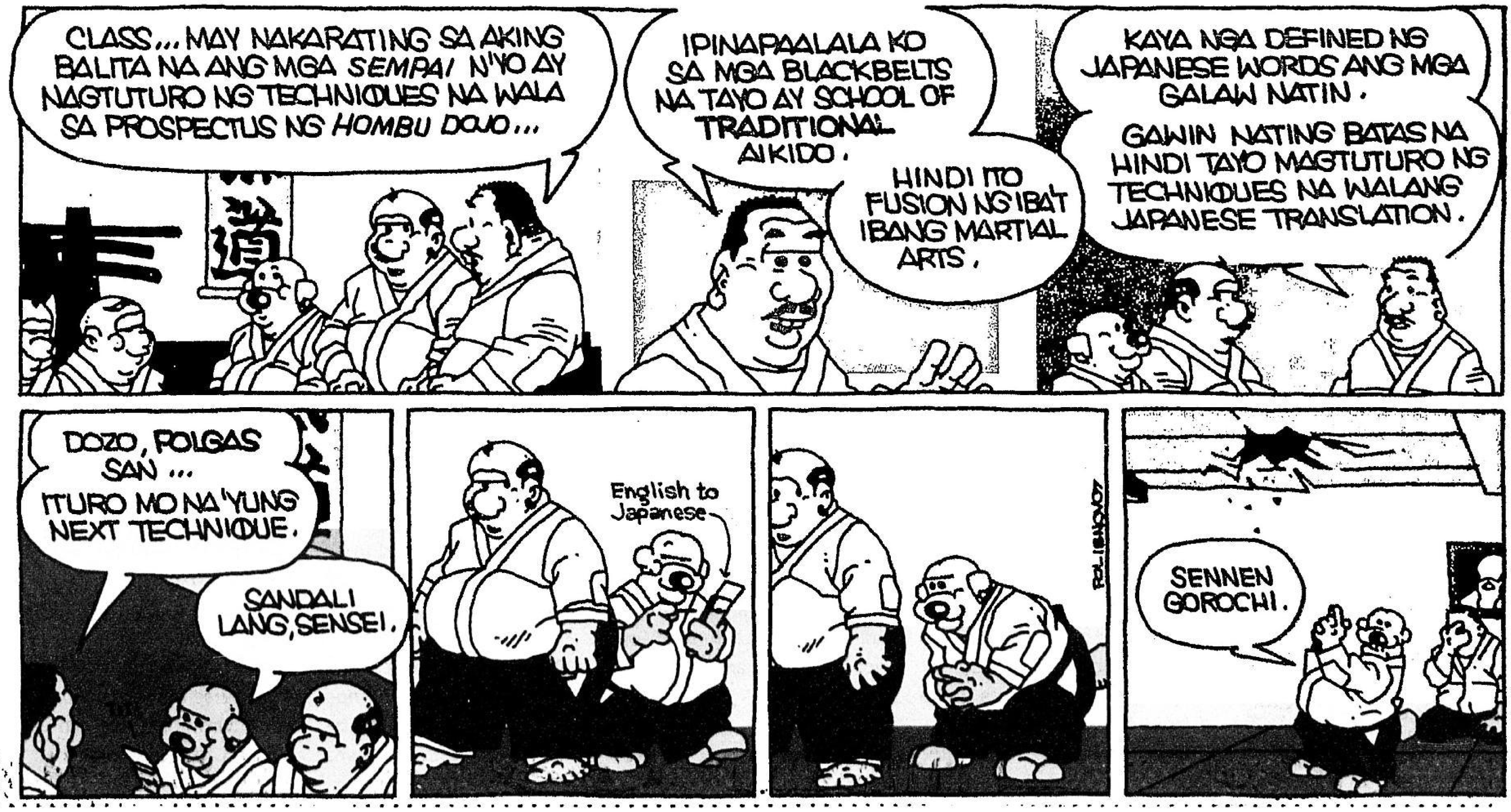
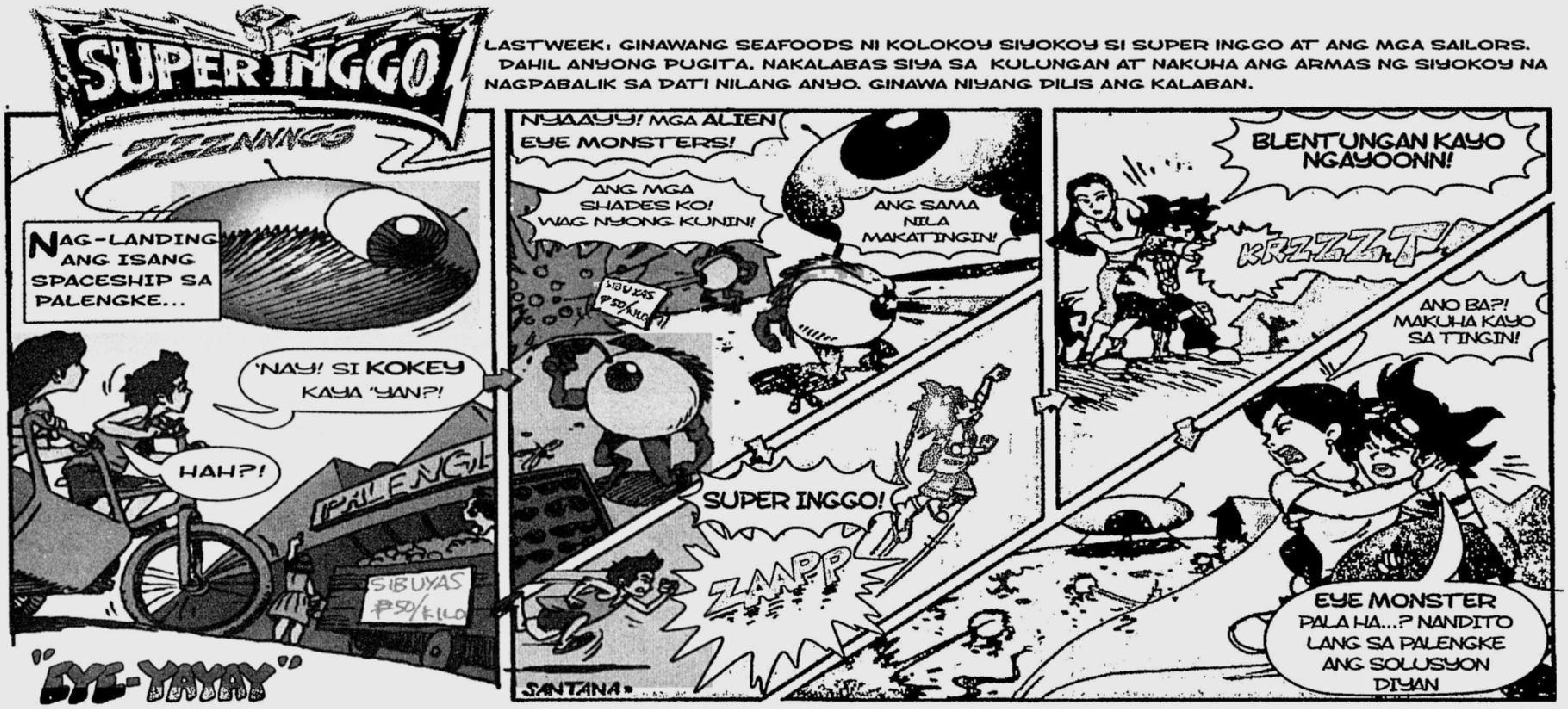

NEARING THE BORDER OF THE SCHWARTZWALD REPUBLIC...
OUR HEROES ARE ESCORTING ROYAL ADVISOR SILVERMAINE ON A DIPLOMATIC MISSION INTO ARNAFELTIA.
SO YOU SEE, FATHER GODSHAMMER, WHY I HAD TO DENY YOUR REQUEST.
A MILITARY OPERATION WILL IGNITE THE TENSION THAT HAS SIMMERED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES INTO VIOLENCE.
I DEFER TO YOUR SUPERIOR WISDOM, ROYAL ADVISOR...
BUT WHY IS THERE SUCH TENSION BETWEEN RUNE-MIDGARD AND ARNAFELTIA?
Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
THAT IS SOMETHING MANY WISER THAN I HAVE PONDERED FOR DECADES. THERE ARE DIFFERENCES, TO BE SURE.
WE WORSHIP THE GOD ODIN. THEY WORSHIP THE GODDESS FREYA. WE ARE A MONARCHY, THEY A THEOCRACY. OUR SOCIETY IS PATRIARCHAL, THEIRS IS MATRIARCHAL. BUT ARE THOSE REASONS ENOUGH TO ENGENDER ENMITY?
Requiem for RACHEL
Chapter 2
MEANWHILE, BY THE WAYSIDE...
We got us some rich marks, by the looks of their carriages.
I told you it was a good idea to move here. On my signal...
NOW!
But why do you get to wear the Grand Circlet while I have to wear the Bunny Band?
'Cuz I'm the boss of this gang! Now shut up!
HALT!
WE ARE HIGHWAYMEN! NOBODY MOVES AND NOBODY GETS HURT!
WHIHHN!
WICKS, WHY HAVE WE STOPPED?
SEE FOR YOURSELF, GENT.
YOU AGAIN?!
Story by: Mark Navarro
Pencils and Inks by: Jhom [illegible]
Colors by: Aldin Viray
TO BE CONTINUED.

PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


CLASS... MAY NAKARATING SA AKING BALITA NA ANG MGA SEMPAI N'YO AY NAGTUTURO NG TECHNIQUES NA WALA SA PROSPECTUS NG HOMBU DOJO...
IPINAPAALALA KO SA MGA BLACKBELTS NA TAYO AY SCHOOL OF TRADITIONAL AIKIDO.
HINDI ITO FUSION NG IBA'T IBANG MARTIAL ARTS.
KAYA NGA DEFINED NG JAPANESE WORDS ANG MGA GALAW NATIN.
GAWIN NATING BATAS NA HINDI TAYO MAGTUTURO NG TECHNIQUES NA WALANG JAPANESE TRANSLATION.
DOZO, POLGAS SAN... ITURO MO NA 'YUNG NEXT TECHNIQUE.
SANDALI LANG, SENSEI.
English to Japanese
POL 18NOV07
SENNEN GOROCHI.

LASTWEEK: GINAWANG SEAFOODS NI KOLOKOY SIYOKOY SI SUPER INGGO AT ANG MGA SAILORS. DAHIL ANYONG PUGITA, NAKALABAS SIYA SA KULUNGAN AT NAKUHA ANG ARMAS NG SIYOKOY NA NAGPABALIK SA DATI NILANG ANYO. GINAWA NIYANG DILIS ANG KALABAN.


SUPER INGGO
ZZZNNNGG
NAG-LANDING ANG ISANG SPACESHIP SA PALENGKE...
'NAY! SI KOKEY KAYA 'YAN?!
HAH?!
PALENGK
SIBUYAS ₱50/KILO
NYAAAYY! MGA ALIEN EYE MONSTERS!
ANG MGA SHADES KO! WAG NYONG KUNIN!
ANG SAMA NILA MAKATINGIN!
SIBUYAS ₱50/KILO
SUPER INGGO!
ZAAPP
SANTANA
BLENTUNGAN KAYO NGAYOONN!
KRZZZT
ANO BA?! MAKUHA KAYO SA TINGIN!
EYE MONSTER PALA HA...? NANDITO LANG SA PALENGKE ANG SOLUSYON DIYAN
"EYE-YAYAY"

WRITTEN BY
JEFFREY M. ONG

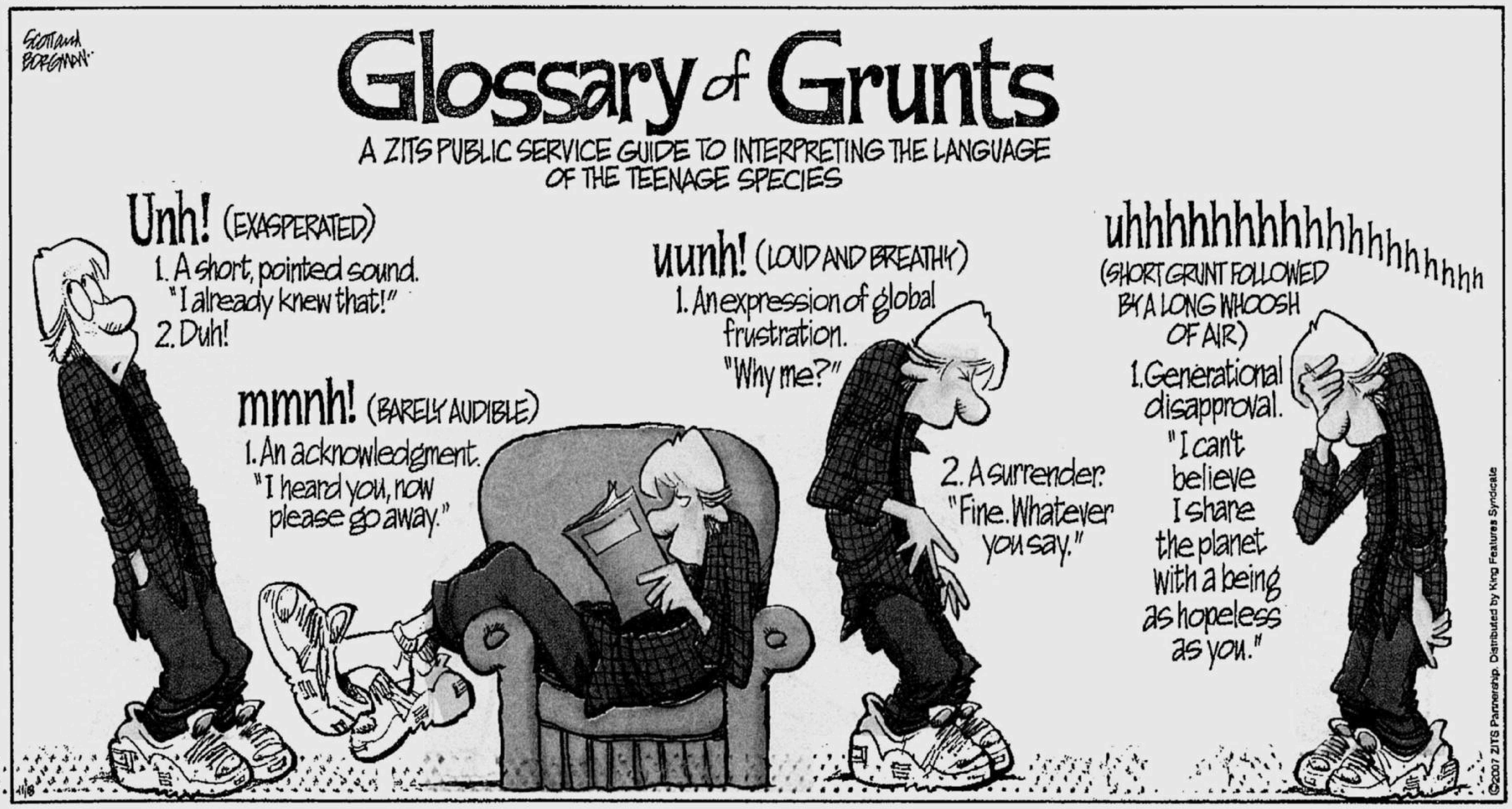
ABS-CBN ANIMATION

ANONG DISKARTE KAYA ANG GAGAWIN NG SUPER BIDA NATIN?

ABANGAN SA **SUPER INGGO 1.5, ANG BAGONG BANGIS!** SA SABADO, 5:45 PM, SA ABS-CBN!

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


SCOTT and BORGMAN
Glossary of Grunts
A ZITS PUBLIC SERVICE GUIDE TO INTERPRETING THE LANGUAGE OF THE TEENAGE SPECIES
Unh! (EXASPERATED)
1. A short, pointed sound. "I already knew that!"
2. Duh!
mmnh! (BARELY AUDIBLE)
1. An acknowledgment. "I heard you, now please go away."
uunh! (LOUD AND BREATHY)
1. An expression of global frustration. "Why me?"
2. A surrender. "Fine. Whatever you say."
uhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh (SHORT GRUNT FOLLOWED BY A LONG WHOOSH OF AIR)
1. Generational disapproval. "I can't believe I share the planet with a being as hopeless as you."
11/18

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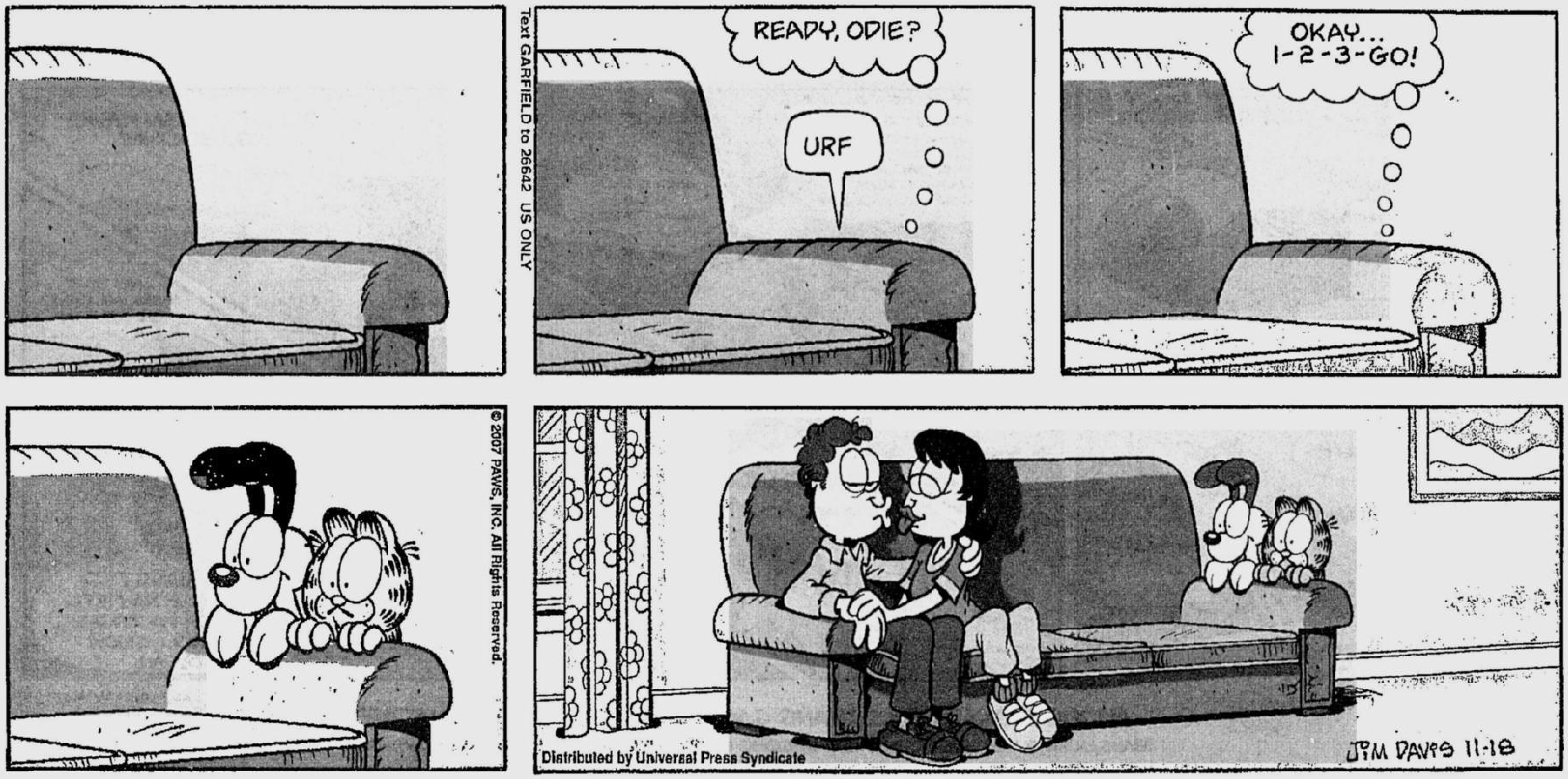
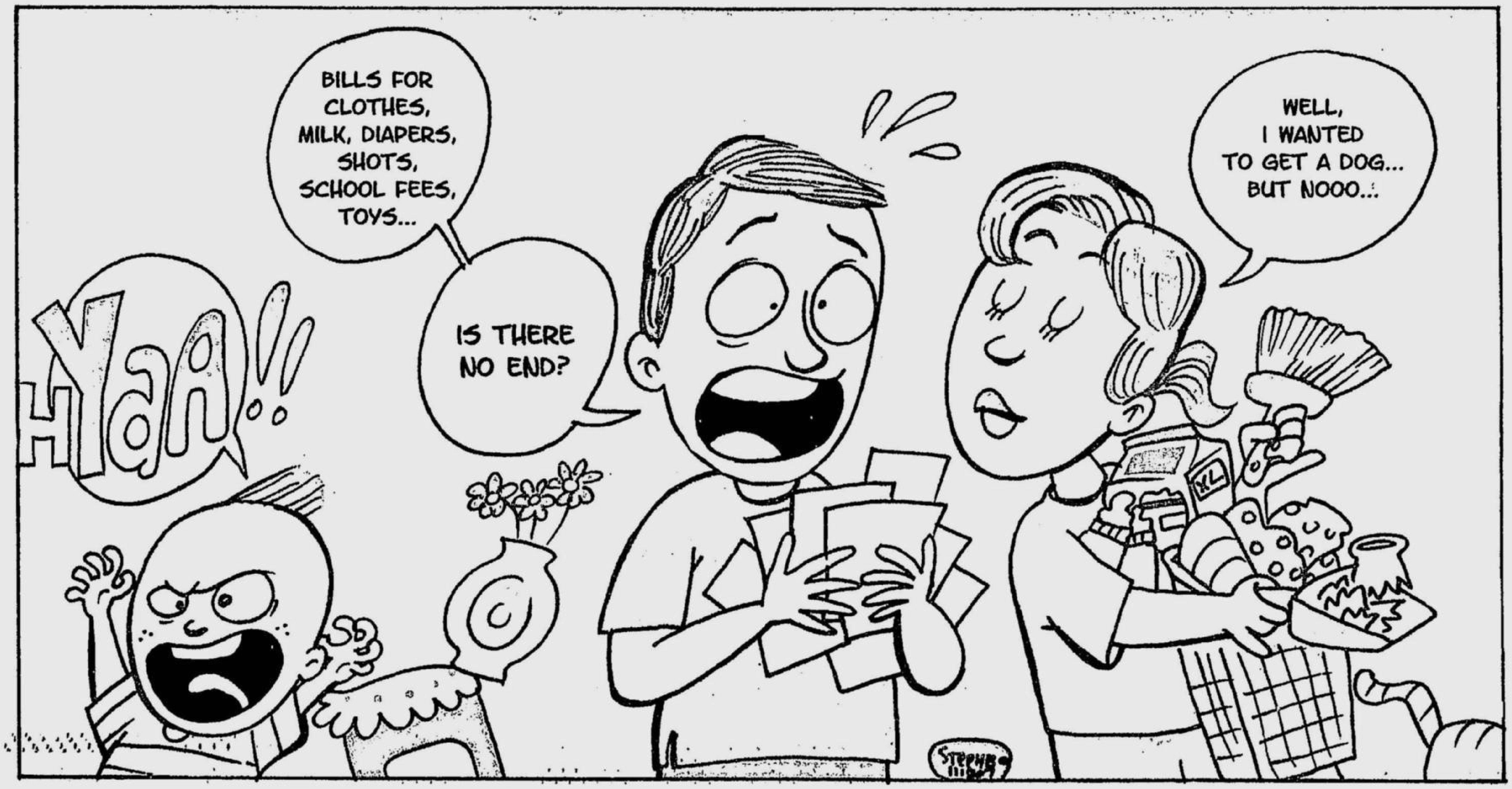
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


READY, ODIE?
URF
OKAY... 1-2-3-GO!
Text GARFIELD to 26642 US ONLY
© 2007 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 11-18

FULL HOUSE

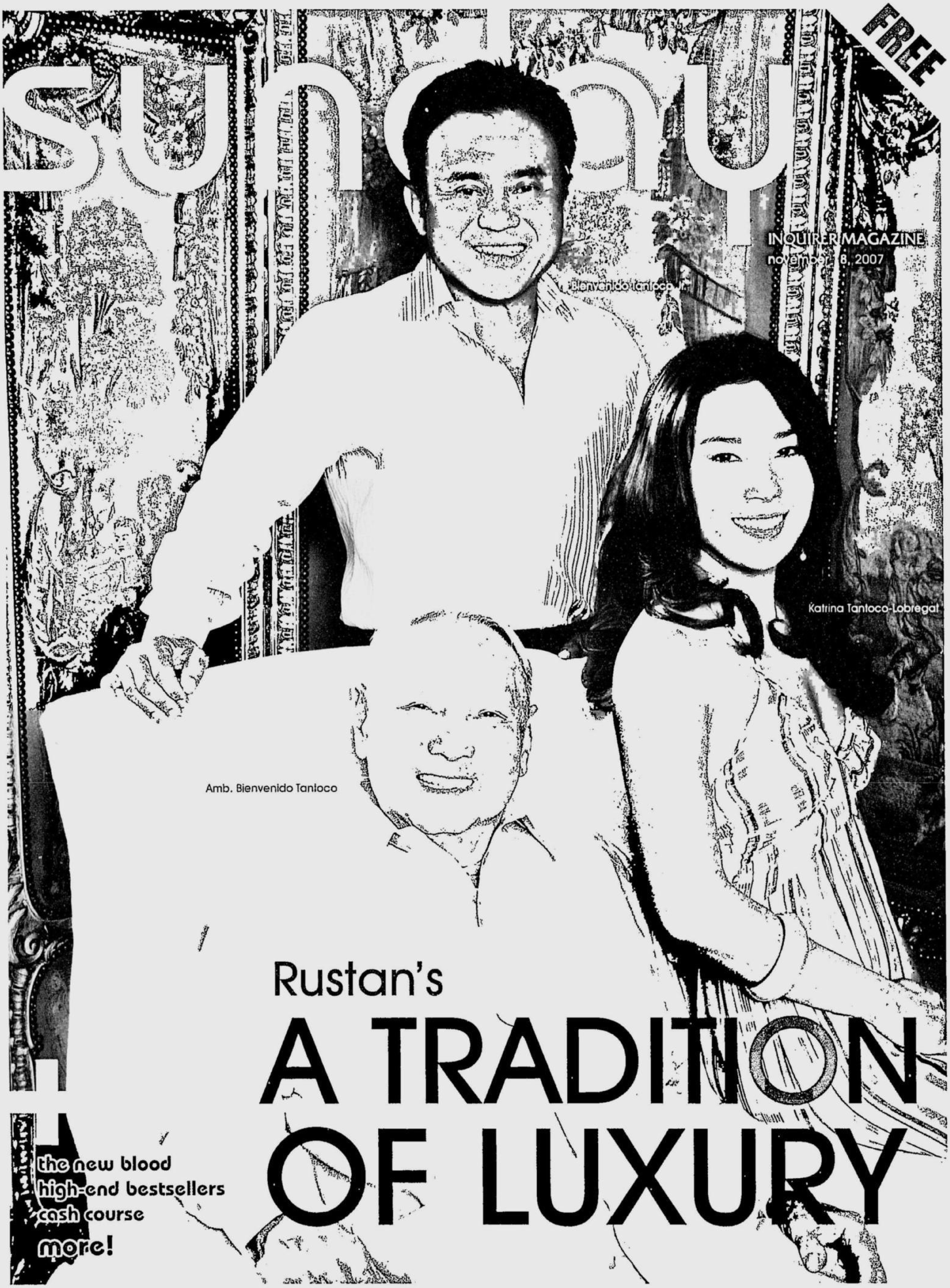
STEPH BRAVO


BILLS FOR CLOTHES, MILK, DIAPERS, SHOTS, SCHOOL FEES, TOYS...
IS THERE NO END?
WELL, I WANTED TO GET A DOG... BUT NOOO...
HYAA!!
XL

sunday

FREE

INQUIRER MAGAZINE
november 18, 2007



Bienvenido Tantoco Jr.

Katrina Tantoco-Lobregat

Amb. Bienvenido Tantoco

Rustan's

A TRADITION OF LUXURY

the new blood
high-end bestsellers
cash course
more!

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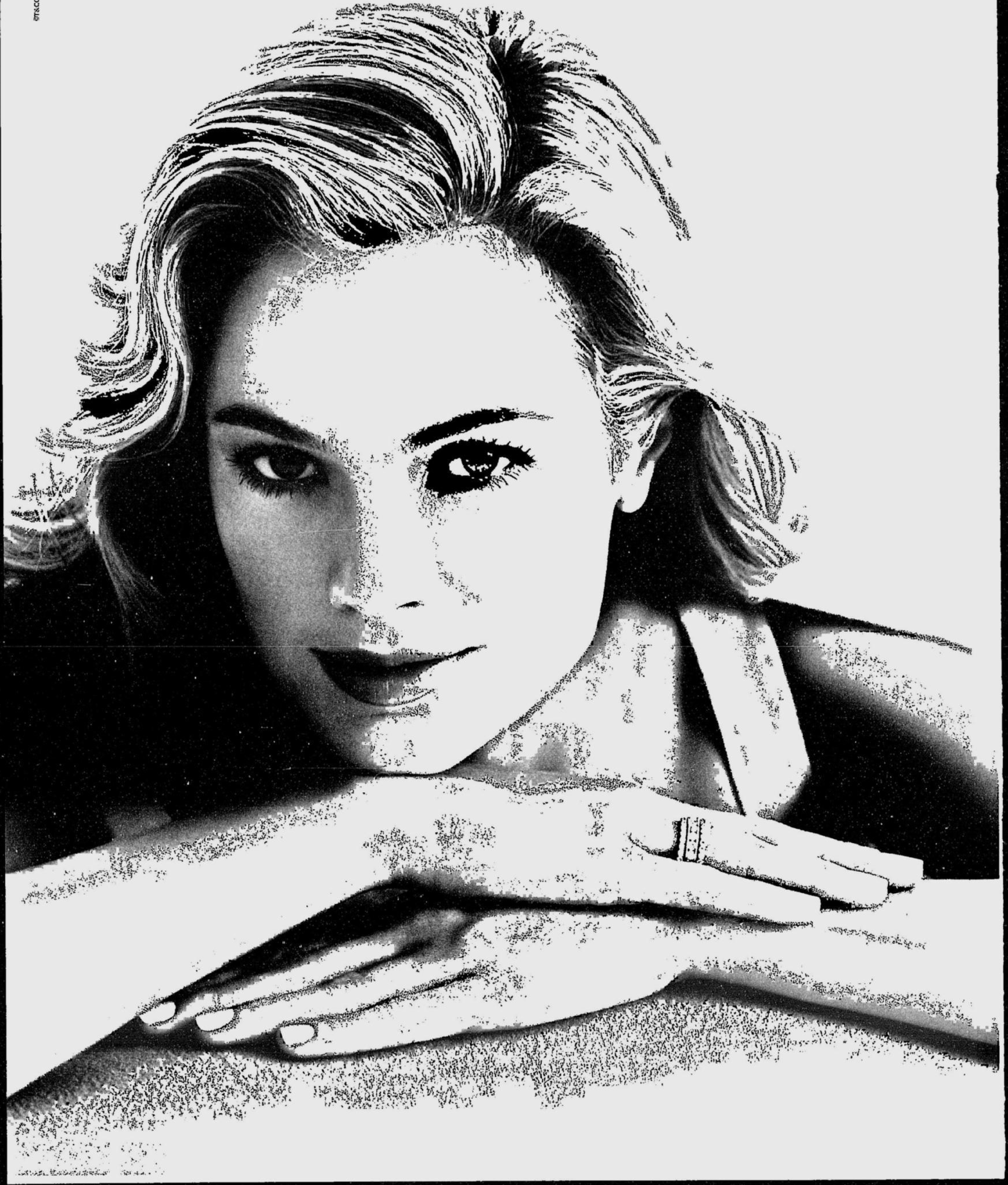

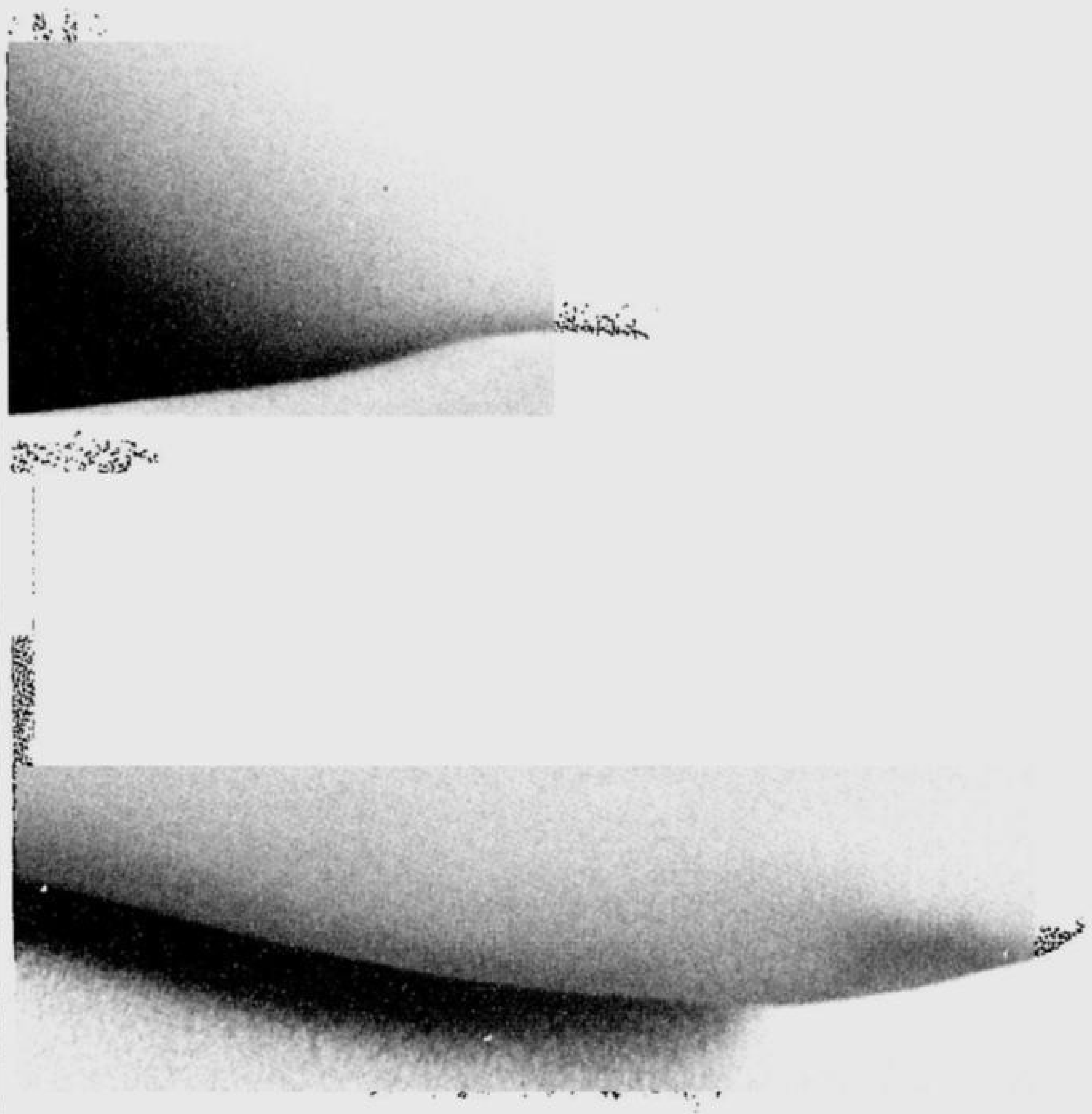

Maybe It's A Secret
TIFFANY CELEBRATION RINGS

TIFFANY & CO.

MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA

Rustan's

Shaping the Philippine face of Luxury

It started with a woman's unerring eye and tireless spirit

By Thelma Sioson San Juan

MANY of my memorable, if not career-defining, coverages involved Rustan's founder and Philippine retail institution Glecy R. Tantoco. Seeing this woman at work was an experience you'd love to tell your kids and grandkids so that they could learn a thing or two from a Filipina mover and shaker.

George Hamilton (do we really need to identify him for today's readers? Google!) was in town, and a private lunch had been set with the lifestyle editors of the top three broadsheets. (This was during the Marcos years, pre-1986 Edsa Revolution.) Mrs. Tantoco was hosting it in the 5th floor boardroom of Rustan's. It would just be us, him, and Mrs. Tantoco, with her staff hovering around.

Hamilton was being the raconteur he was touted to be, charming our group. Our hostess was holding her end of the table, so it was a most engaging lunch. Then I noticed Mrs. Tantoco's unshod foot wandering blindly underneath our table. Apparently she was missing a shoe which she must have taken off in our relaxed mode. Now how to run lunch and instruct her staff, while staying put in her seat as she tried to slip back into her shoe. Believe it or not, she did, without our celebrity guest sensing that the shoe of one of the country's most powerful women had dropped, so to speak.

Perhaps people must be reminded today that Rustan's was born out of the formidable partnership of a man (Tantoco) and his wife (Rustia). Bienvenido Tantoco was into the corporate world's finance, while his wife Glecy was a typical, indefatigable wife when it came to shopping—she knew what to buy and later sell.

It was from such partnership that the notion, taste and experience of luxury and lifestyle were formed for the Filipino as early as the '50s, ahead of the region. Long before Hong Kong, Singapore and the rest of Asia had luxury brands in their midst, Mrs. Tantoco was already bringing in Dior, Helena Rubenstein and other luxury European and American brands for Manila's socialites. Manila already knew luxury and world-class quality then, and could afford it. This was the gracious era of the '50s, marked by the post-war hunger for the good life. The country, with its balls, exclusive clubs and debuts, was fertile ground for western lifestyle, especially fashion.

And Mrs. Tantoco became the gateway to all that, perhaps without her planning it. Nylons, it is said, started it all—nylon stockings, underwear, dresses. Nylon was all the rage then, and friends started checking out the nylon stuff Mrs. Tantoco had brought in from abroad. They would drop by her house in San Marcelino, Manila. Before long, Mrs. Tantoco knew what finery, perfume, shoes, bags her friends wanted from Europe and the US.

> “In that fleeting hidden moment, one saw the rare breed that was Glecy Tantoco: a multi-tasker even before the word was invented in the '90s, a charmer in the midst of celebrity and non-celebrity, a driven and focused achiever who couldn't be derailed from what she set out to do, not even by a missing shoe.”

Since it was so obvious that she had a captive "home market," literally, in time, the Tantocos opened a gift shop in San Marcelino. This was in 1952. Before long the gift shop became a department store. In 1954, Rustan's had its Filipiniana section which would develop Filipino crafts for the world consumer.

Rustan's shaped the face of luxury in the country. It did so not by the mere act of establishing a department store. It should be noted that when Rustan's opened in the '50s, Manila already had high-end stores such as Aguinaldo's, Berg's, Oceanic.

What Rustan's brought to the retail scene all the way to the '70s and '80s was the unrelenting preference for quality brands here and abroad. Mrs. Tantoco was a tireless and effective networker who forged ties with the leading European fashion houses and brands, starting with Christian Dior whose designer Marc Bohan she met

continued on page 6

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continued on page 6

CHANEL
COCO
MADEMOISELLE
COCO
MADEMOISELLE
CHANEL
PARIS
www.chanel.com
Rustan's

from page 4

with, Chanel, Lanvin, Nina Ricci, Givenchy, Valentino, Charles Jourdan, Fiorucci, Oleg Cassini. And the Tantoco couple, followed by their children, kept such ties through the decades.

It was a parade of fashion houses and luxury brands that continues to this day—Ferragamo, Lacoste, Cartier, Estee Lauder, Van Cleef & Arpels, Tiffany, Charriol, Marks & Spencer, Wedgwood, Daum, among others.

Through Rustan's, in the '80s, we got to see the Paris fashion collections which were flown to Manila—complete with the French designers and models. Of course, it helped that Mrs. Tantoco was in the circle of Imelda Marcos whose program it was to glam up the country's image. The series of Paris fashion collections was a feat never duplicated.

"Paris... in the Spring '81" featured the fashion collection of the House of Lanvin, brought in by no less than Bernard Lanvin and its designer Jules Francois Crahay. It was followed by the collections of Nina Ricci, with designer Girard Pipart gracing the show; and the collection of Emanuel Ungaro.

Smooth sailing: Rustan's founders Glecy and Ambassador Tantoco

The Tantoco family also brought in the Gucci heiress, Patricia, the daughter of Aldo Gucci, to push the Gucci brand in Manila, pre-Tom Ford era.

But then again, it was more than networking that assured Rustan's its prime place in the country's luxury market. More important, it was Mrs. Tantoco's almost unerring eye for quality merchandise. She knew what the market would want—and what it should want. "She was our head buyer and all the buyers were reporting to her directly," daughter Nedy Tantoco said in an interview about her mother's involvement in the business which didn't wane even when Bienvenido became the ambassador to Rome and then Morocco, and she chose to stay with her husband.

It was a trained eye that Mrs. Tantoco passed on not only to her staff but also to her family. Such merchandise selection worked not only with foreign brands. She also had a good eye for Filipino craftsmanship, from fashion crafts to furniture, to be sold to the world. As early as the '80s Rustan's was tapping Filipino architects, designers and artists. Budji Layug displayed his famous bamboo furniture that found its way to Bloomingdale's, under the watch of Mrs. Tantoco.

Filipiniana—Mrs. Tantoco took its essence to heart. Rustan's became known for its pitch—"Our Very Own." Luxury came to mean not only imported brands, but also finely crafted Filipino merchandise.

With the Tantoco couple showing the way, Rustan's developed a consumer service which, for the longest time, was incomparable. Its staff was already serving as personal shoppers long before personal shopper became a job. It followed Mrs. Tantoco's belief—which she stressed in so many interviews—that luxury didn't begin and end with the goods, but extended to the service and ambiance enjoyed by the consumer.

Completing the luxury equation were the events and festivals, the councils (e.g. Young VIP Council) Rustan's built to firm up its markets that cut across ages.

Mrs. Tantoco died in 1994, shortly after the couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. She succumbed to cancer all too soon.

With Ambassador Tantoco at the helm, the corporate veteran that he was, Rustan's expanded to various retail platforms beyond the department store. The Ambassador and Glecy's children Rico, Nedy, Menchu, Marilou, Marites, Marilen, and their respective children have become involved in the family's various businesses since Glecy's death. *(See related interview with Ambassador Tantoco)*

While the market for luxury goods worldwide continues to grow, the Philippine scene has become a tough challenge, given the emergence of many players. Free-standing stores—outlets for luxury brands whose franchises the Tantoco family owns through Stores Specialists Inc.—have given consumers options other than the one-stop department store. In the middle and low markets are the *tiangges* which lure a wide demographic nonetheless.

How would a Glecy Tantoco have managed in today's brand-centric and marketing-driven era? Honestly, I don't think she would have missed a beat. She would have been doing what she did best—back to the basics: an eye for quality and a heart for consumer service. In the manner she looked for a shoe that accidentally dropped, she would have done it with panache. •

The Tradition Lives On

THIRTEEN years after Glecy Tantoco passed on, her husband, Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco, and their children have continued the tradition of luxury that Rustan's started some 50 years back.

The business, assures the Ambassador, "has evolved into a Retailing Group of enterprises with growth achieved via various retailing formats." Concentrating on retailing, he adds, "has enabled (the company) to achieve diversified growth in a focused manner, thus achieving specialized and synergistic growth."

In an interview with SIM, the Ambassador shares his views and visions for the company that put luxury brands on the Philippines' shopping map:

What can you say about what your children are doing in the retail and luxury brand businesses? (SSI luxury boutiques, Starbucks, and of course Rustan's Dept. Store)

I believe my children are executing their respective formats with the proper strategy and specialized expertise.

You saw and felt the business and social climate of the '50s and '60s when Rustan's was just starting out. How do you compare that with the climate today?

Our growth as a group has been respectable although there were some difficult periods in the last 20 years.

Is the Rustan's group taking the direction you wanted for it?

Generally, yes, which is to achieve synergistic and focused growth in the field of Retailing and Distribution.

What about the third generation Tantocos?

I am quite confident about the third generation being able to continue the growth of our Group.

How do you feel at this stage of your life?

I feel happy that I was somehow able to contribute to the economic life of my country and my people.

Where else would you want to take the group?

We may enter into some strategic partnerships with other retail players.

from page 4

with, Chanel, Lanvin, Nina Ricci, Givenchy, Valentino, Charles Jourdan, Fiorucci, Oleg Cassini. And the Tantoco couple, followed by their children, kept such ties through the decades.

It was a parade of fashion houses and luxury brands that continues to this day—Ferragamo, Lacoste, Cartier, Estee Lauder, Van Cleef & Arpels, Tiffany, Charriol, Marks & Spencer, Wedgwood, Daum, among others.

Through Rustan's, in the '80s, we got to see the Paris fashion collections which were flown to Manila—complete with the French designers and models. Of course, it helped that Mrs. Tantoco was in the circle of Imelda Marcos whose program it was to glam up the country's image. The series of Paris fashion collections was a feat never duplicated.

"Paris… In the Spring '81" featured the fashion collection of the House of Lanvin, brought in by no less than Bernard Lanvin and its designer Jules Francois Crahay. It was followed by the collections of Nina Ricci, with designer Girard Pipart gracing the show; and the collection of Emanuel Ungaro.

The Tantoco family also brought in the Gucci heiress, Patricia, the daughter of Aldo Gucci, to push the Gucci brand in Manila, pre-Tom Ford era.

But then again, it was more than networking that assured Rustan's its prime place in the country's luxury market. More important, it was Mrs. Tantoco's almost unerring eye for quality merchandise. She knew what the market would want—and what it should want. "She was our head buyer and all the buyers were reporting to her directly," daughter Nedy Tantoco said in an interview about her mother's involvement in the business which didn't wane even when Bienvenido became the ambassador to Rome and then Morocco, and she chose to stay with her husband.

It was a trained eye that Mrs. Tantoco passed on not only to her staff but also to her family. Such merchandise selection worked not only with foreign brands. She also had a good eye for Filipino craftsmanship, from fashion crafts to furniture, to be sold to the world. As early as the '80s Rustan's was tapping Filipino architects, designers and artists. Budji Layug displayed his famous bamboo furniture that found its way to Bloomingdale's, under the watch of Mrs. Tantoco.

Filipiniana—Mrs. Tantoco took its essence to heart. Rustan's became known for its pitch—"Our Very Own." Luxury came to mean not only imported brands, but also finely crafted Filipino merchandise.

With the Tantoco couple showing the way, Rustan's developed a consumer service which, for the longest time, was incomparable. Its staff was already serving as personal shoppers long before personal shopper became a job. It followed Mrs. Tantoco's belief—which she stressed in so many interviews—that luxury didn't begin and end with the goods, but extended to the service and ambiance enjoyed by the consumer.

Smooth sailing: Rustan's founders Glecy and Ambassador Tantoco

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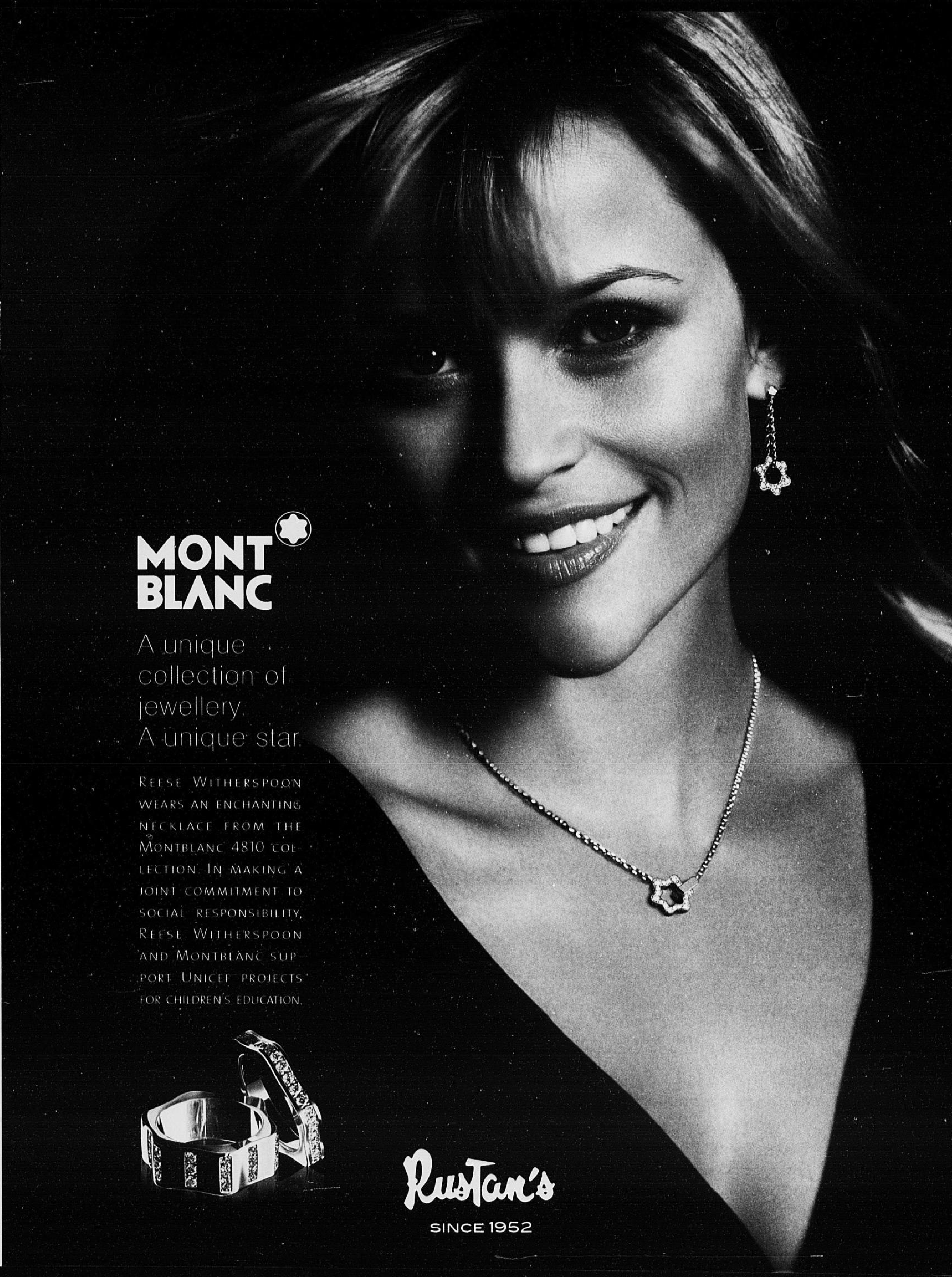

MONT BLANC
A unique collection of jewellery. A unique star.
Rustan's
SINCE 1952

REESE WITHERSPOON WEARS AN ENCHANTING NECKLACE FROM THE MONTBLANC 4810 COLLECTION. IN MAKING A JOINT COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, REESE WITHERSPOON AND MONTBLANC SUPPORT UNICEF PROJECTS FOR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.

When Price is No Object

What are wealthy Filipinos buying these days? Duomo bags at P75,000, P600,000 Bulgari watches, and new breasts for P142,000, among other must-haves

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THOSE who doubt the growth numbers proffered by President Arroyo's economic managers need to look no further than the bustling retail sales for proof. Apparently, it's not only shampoos, soaps and noodles consumed by practically 75 million Filipinos; so too are luxury items and high-end brands.

Iconic Louis Vuitton, for instance, has sold more bags in the Philippines this year than in 2006, according to Pamela Picazzo, LV communications coordinator in the Philippines. The Speedy 30 remains LV's top seller, which comes in monogram canvas **(P34,200)**, Damier canvas **(P34,200)** and the Mini Lin Canvas **(P37,800)**. Other top sellers are the Duomo **(P75,000)** with its structured and sturdy frame, and the Batignolles Vertical **(P41,900)**.

Luxury car brands Mercedes-Benz and BMW are also having a good year. Gregorio T. Yu, chair of CATS Motors Inc., reveals that the number of units sold as of last month is already 20 percent more than that sold in 2006. Leading in sales was the Mercedes C Class **(P2.98 million)**, followed by the E Class **(P4.98 million)**, S Class **(P8 million)** and the SLK **(P5 million)**. The top BMW models for the year, says Yu, are the 3 series, followed by the 5 series, the 1 series, the X5 and X3. "Sales have been increasing because so many people are celebrating with a luxury vehicle," explains Leana Farrales, senior corporate communications manager of BMW in the Philippines.

Bulgari general manager Mario Katigbak observes that jewelry remains the bestseller for Bulgari, with items that go from **P50,000** to **P2 million**. Then there are the watches, which range in price from **P150,000** to **P600,000**, and the leather handbag, the most popular of which is the DecoHe, which goes for **P60,000**.

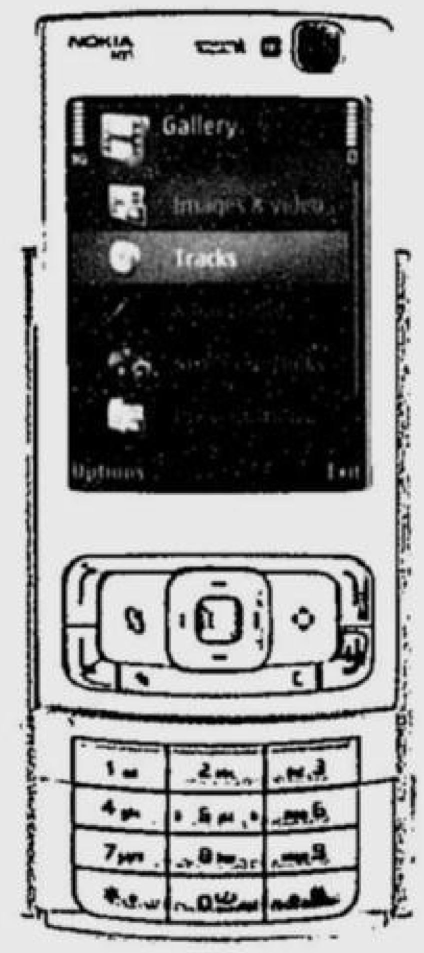
When it comes to gadgets, mobile phones and iPods are on top of the list of must-buys, says Generoso Villanueva of the Mobile1 retail chain. All types of iPods continue to sell well even if the brand has been around for some time, he notes. The iTouch **(P12,000)**, which is an iPod with Internet surfing features, is also becoming popular.

For Nokia, the most popular handset brand in the country, the best sellers are the 6300 **(P11,200)** and the N95 **(P29,500)**. Samsung top choices are the E250 **(P6,990)**, D900i **(P13,990)**, U600 **(P17,890)**, U700 **(P18,990)** and the C140 **(P2,650)**.

Real estate companies are also feeling the love from consumers, which they have not felt since the 1997 Asian currency crisis. Century Properties Inc., one of the biggest names in the industry, says that condominiums have become the property of choice. Its Soho Central in Mandaluyong is almost sold out, with studio units starting at **P2.7 million**, and so are the South of Market units in Fort Bonifacio, with prices starting at **P4.9 million** for a one-bedroom suite and **P11 million** for a three-bedroom unit. The Grand Soho Makati is as popular, and costs from **P2.1 million** for a studio to **P14 million** for a three-bedroom loft.

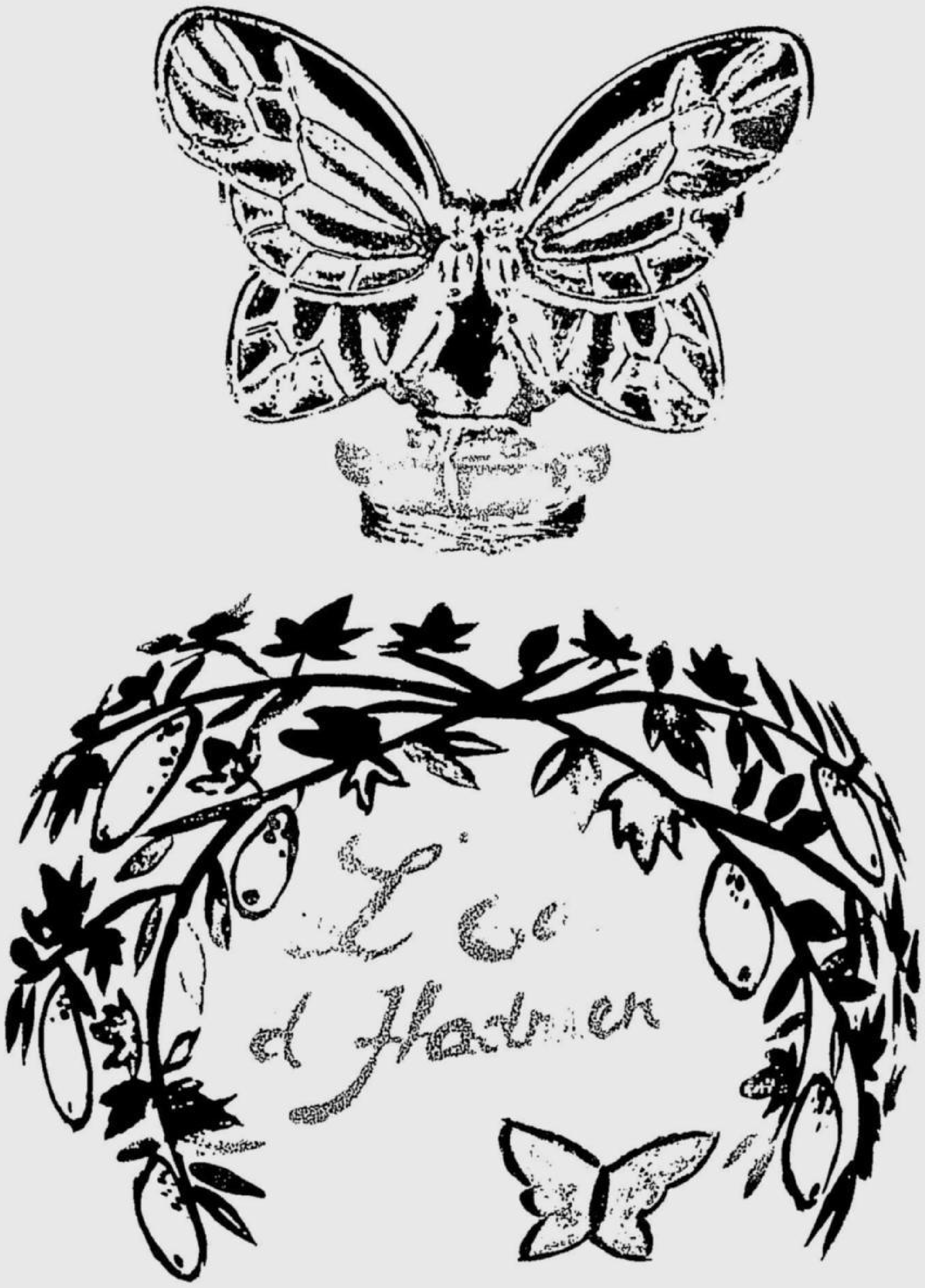
Even the medical industry is benefiting from the money sloshing around in the economy. Just ask Vicky Belo, also described as "the dermatologist to the stars," who says that clients are hankering for a Smart Lipo. Unlike traditional liposuction, Smart Lipo patients have a faster recovery time—and pay top peso for it. A Smart lipo costs **P33,600** for each part—upper abdomen, abdomen, waist, hips, inner thigh, outer thigh, buttocks, chest, breast, calves and back, plus **P11,200** for the anesthesia and **P5,600** for the binder. An additional 20 percent is charged as professional fee. Breast work is the next most popular procedure, with prices starting at **P142,720**, followed by a nose lift (at least **P50,400**) and eye work (**P39,200** for eyelift or eye bag removal).

With all that money going around and spent unabashedly on luxury items and services, who says the Philippines is a third world country? •



Bestsellers: (from top) BMW, Bulgari watches, the Nokia N95 and a Louis Vuitton bag

ANNICK GOUTAL
PARIS


L'Eau d'Hadrien

Rustan's
SINCE 1952

By Margaux Salcedo

Caterer to the A-Listers

Name an AAA-list event—a wedding, launch, anniversary -and Gaita Fores is bound to be in charge of the kitchen. She once catered a feast onstage at the Cultural Cente and regularly creates Filipino-inspired dinners for Malacañang's visiting royalty

TWENTY years?

Something seemed amiss with my sight and hearing. Because I was looking at this beautiful woman who looked like she was all of 30. Well, okay, maybe 32. And she had just proudly shared with me that she has been in the food business for the past 20 years, and is celebrating the anniversary of her debut as chef this November. I did the math and realized she couldn't possibly have started as chef at age 12, no matter how much Promil she downed as a toddler. Suddenly uneasy that I had been addressing her by her first name all this time, when Filipino manners dictated that I acknowledge her as an elder, I blurted out, "Should I call you *Tita* Gaita?" To which I received, in a decibel higher than normal, "No! I'll kill you!" And we both laughed. The lady is Margarita Fores. And 20 years into the business, she is still youthful, laughing as heartily as ever, and at the top of her game.

I first heard of Fores 10 years ago when Area Cafe was the hippest new restaurant. And then a few months later when Cibo took its place as the hippest new restaurant. I remember poring over the menu at the Glorietta and being fascinated by all the new flavors she was introducing. Fores made it her mission to indoctrinate Metro Manila with Italian sophistication.

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Ernst Benz

PRECISION INSTRUMENTS FOR TIMEKEEPING

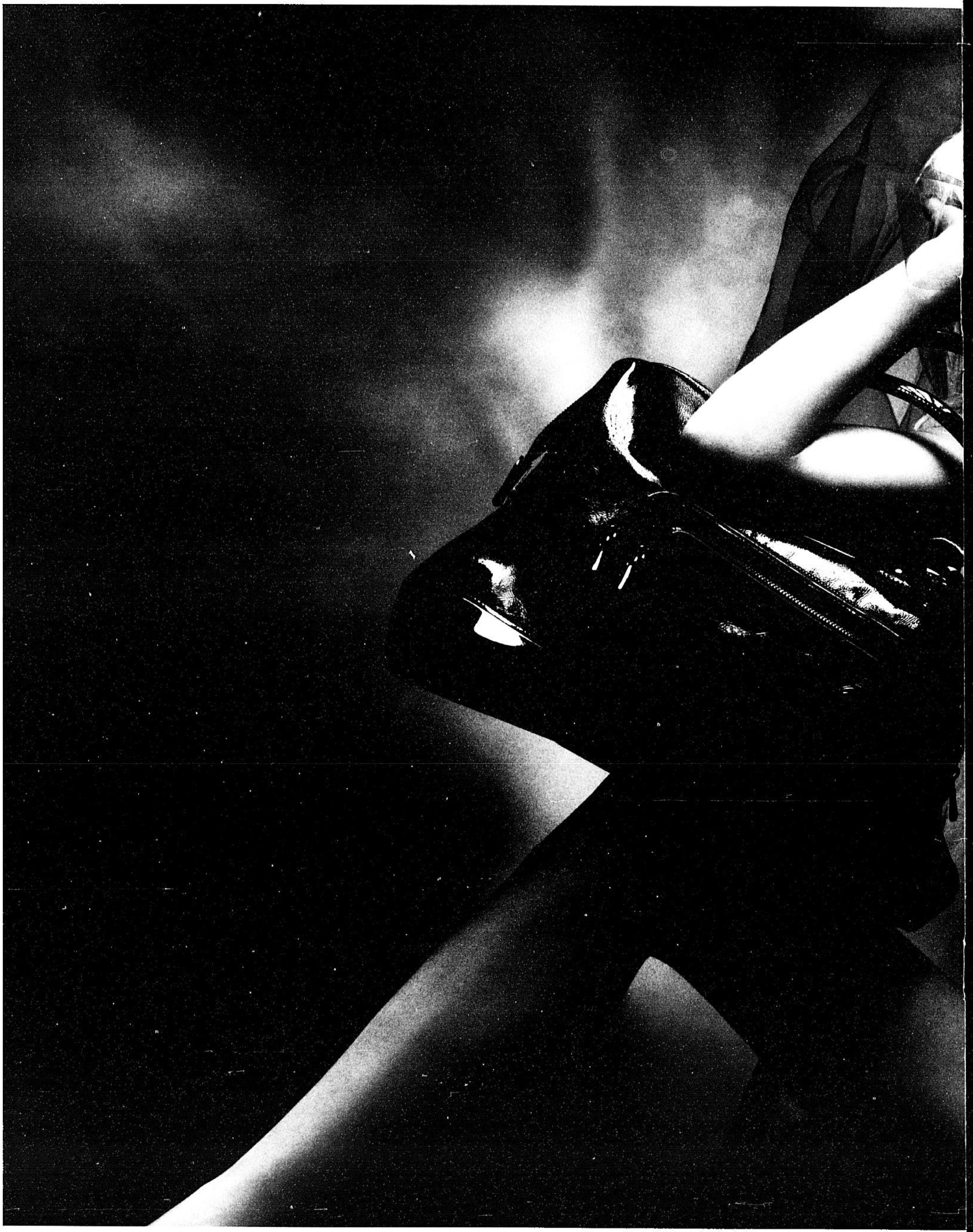
TACHYMETER
Ernst Benz
FRI 25
CHRONOSCOPE
AUTOMATIC
SWISS MADE
Ernst

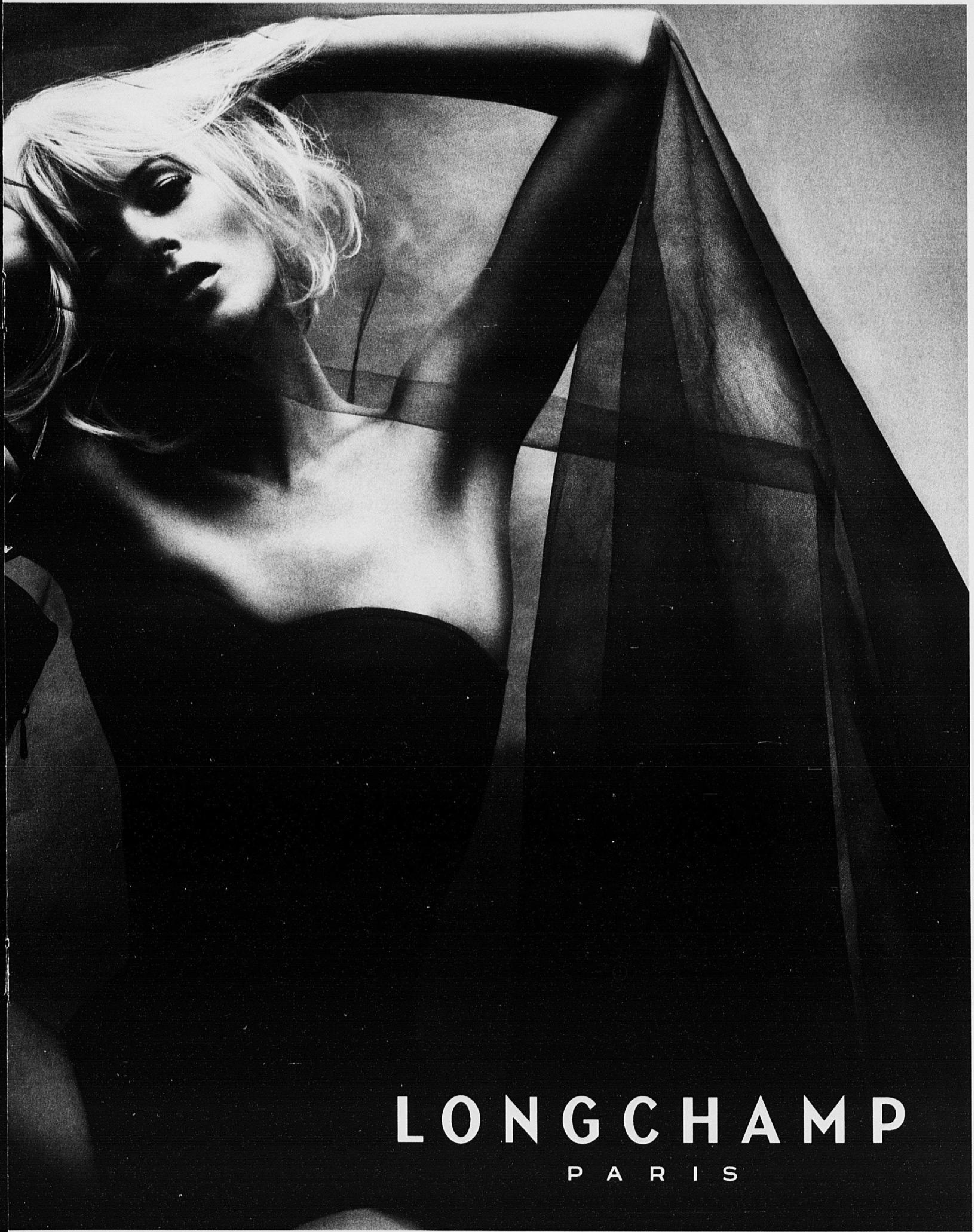
ChronoSco

ernstbenz.com

Rustan's

SINCE 1952



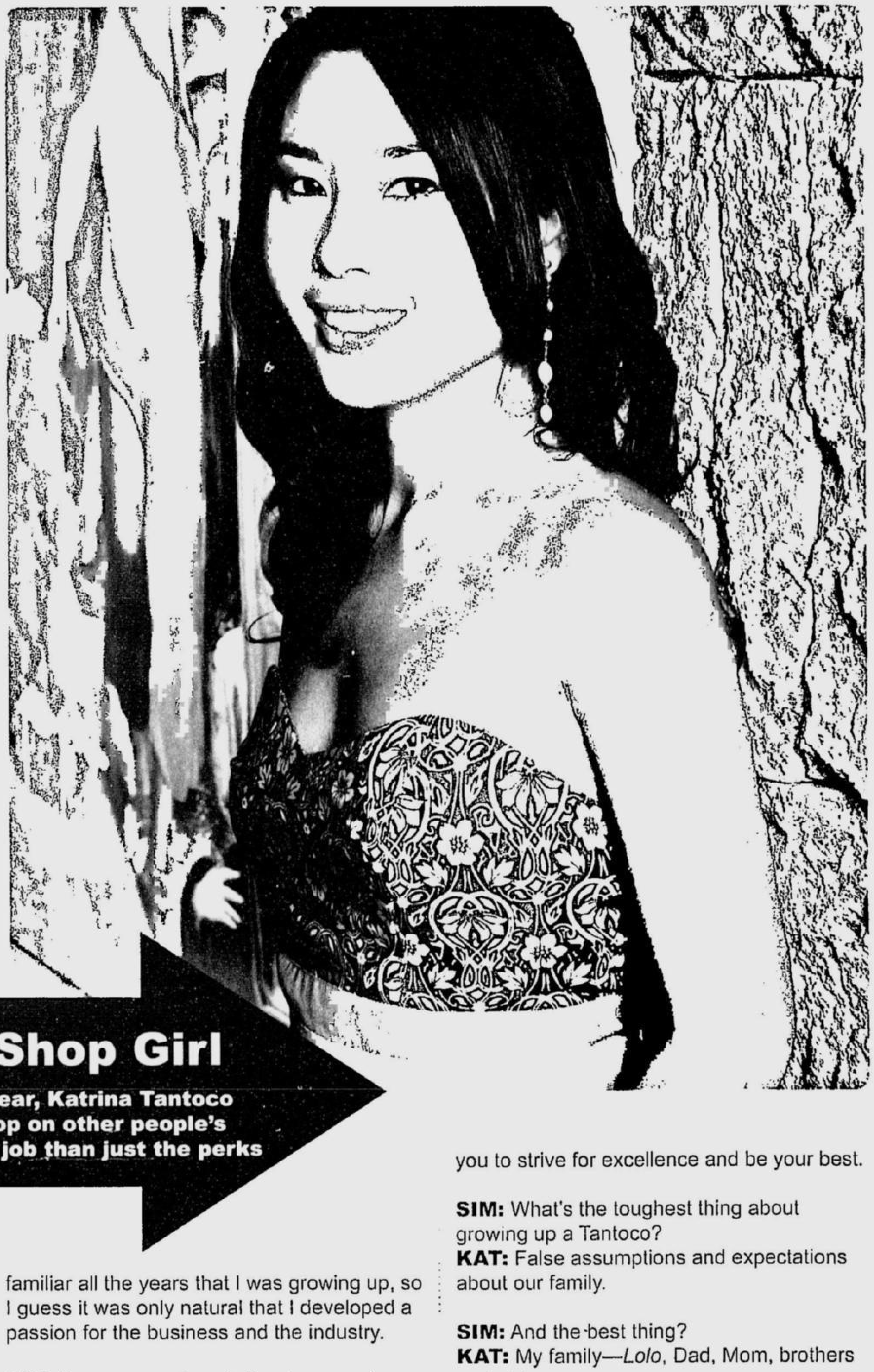

LONGCHAMP
PARIS

Rustan's
SINCE 1952

From Princess to Shop Girl

As fashion buyer for Rustan's ladies' wear, Katrina Tantoco Lobregat gets to see the world and shop on other people's money. But there's more to this dream job than just the perks

By Leica R. Carpo



THE headline on her first day at work would have read "Forbes Park princess turns shop girl."

Because basically, that's what really happened. At 33, Katrina Tantoco Lobregat finally takes her place in the family-owned Rustan's Department Store as fashion buyer for Ladies Imported Resort Wear. Standing barely five feet, Lobregat assumes a bigger role in the country's foremost luxury department store.

Balancing her new family—with husband of two years Paolo and seven-month-old son Pablo Sebastian —Lobregat just acquired a dream job most fashionistas would kill for. Imagine a career that takes you to the world's fashion capitals to shop on someone else's money. Why, it sounds more like a fantasy vacation than a real life job. But make no mistake about it; front row seats at this ride come with a hefty admission price.

As Lobregat joins the family business, she is faced with several challenges that beset the legendary emporium of the country's crème de la crème. Is there room for a true luxury department store in a third world economy like the Philippines? With the global domination of "high street" brands like Mango and H&M, is luxury retailing a thing of the past? Could Lobregat's sparkly new dream job actually be more of a mission impossible? How can her degree in English Literature, with a minor in Philosophy from Santa Clara University, California, help her negotiate the landmines of luxury retailing?

Unfazed, Lobregat muses that, at the end of the day, it's still all about delivering on your promise of indulgence, and the reward that customers get when they purchase high quality goods while getting the best service. This is what Rustan's customers crave—and what they've come to expect.

SIM: As a Tantoco, the name synonymous with Rustan's, were you always expected to join the family business?
KAT: I never really felt pressured to work in the store. But it was a culture that was so familiar all the years that I was growing up, so I guess it was only natural that I developed a passion for the business and the industry.

SIM: It was a passion obviously passed on by your grandmother, Mrs. Glecy Tantoco, the known matriarch of the clan and the spirit behind Rustan's. What is your favorite memory of her?
KAT: There are too many, but one that stands out is the importance she always placed on travel and experiencing new worlds, environments and cultures.

SIM: Who was your grandmother's favorite?
KAT: Among her kids, I don't think she had one. My *Lola* Glecy had a gift for figuring out your strengths, building on them, and pushing you to strive for excellence and be your best.

SIM: What's the toughest thing about growing up a Tantoco?
KAT: False assumptions and expectations about our family.

SIM: And the best thing?
KAT: My family—*Lolo*, Dad, Mom, brothers and sister

SIM: Are you a daddy's girl?
KAT: Oh, I think that all daughters are their daddy's girls.

SIM: What's the most exciting thing that has happened to you so far? What do you consider the first three life-defining moments in your life?
KAT: The most exciting thing was, of course, starting a family. And for the three

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la prairie
SKIN CAVIAR
LUXE EYE LIFT CREAM
la prairie
SWITZERLAND

Rustan's
SINCE 1952

By Tony M. Maghirang

The Money Trail

With all those ads for condos, leisure homes and signature items, you wonder: where is all that money coming from? And where is it headed? An expert weighs in

Cart blanche: OFWs provide much of the money coming into the country.

PDI Photo

"WHERE has all my money gone?" The typical working stiff usually asks this question after finding himself broke just days after payday. Policy-makers pose a similar question when trying to understand the state of the country's economy. Part of the answer lies in accounting for the inflow and outflow of money within the system: Where is our money coming from? How are we spending it?

The answers are especially significant at this time, since the last quarter of the year always means a spike in the volume of money coming in, says Dr. Ponciano Intal, Ph.D., executive director of De La Salle University's Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies (AKI).

Much of the inflow comes from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), whose remittances are estimated at US$12B this year. Most of this amount ends up in personal consumption, housing, and children's education instead of domestic investments that, economists say, could have had a more positive impact on money supply. Intal notes, though, that in the case of housing, OFW earnings are invested in durables, among them appliances, furniture and sporting goods. Another positive development, he adds, is how Filipinos have learned to save whatever is left of their fixed and often skimpy salaries. Still, the overall gain in savings has been a low 35 percent compared to much higher rates in other developing countries.

Aside from personal consumption, much of the money sent in by OFWs is spent on livelihood investments like passenger jeepneys and FX taxis, observes Intal. "OFWs must be making some form of investments, but there is no information on their magnitude," he adds. "There is a need for government to keep track of how OFWs' remittances are being used. It should be important enough to merit the attention of the national leadership."

With OFW remittances playing a vital role in the inflow of money into the economy, there are fears that decreased overseas work would lead to less money circulating in the system. But Intal remains unfazed. "I suspect this scenario may take another decade to actually happen. There's a construction boom in the Gulf states. Japan and other industrialized countries have a graying population that could spur an increased demand for caregivers. There are also growing opportunities for Filipino IT professionals." He adds that Filipinos are also the preferred worker overseas. "We adapt easily and are naturally gregarious. And we're good at what we do."

> **"OFWs must be making some form of investments, but there is no information on their magnitude"**

But even this anxiety over the decline in OFW placements could be a good thing if it leads to an improved business climate in the Philippines, contends Intal. Given a resurgent economy at home, prospective OFWs will choose to stay and find work here, he adds. This has happened to South Korea, he notes. In the late '70s and most of the '80s, the South Koreans were a force to contend with in construction projects in the Middle East. After their economy heated up during the '90s, it became increasingly difficult for the Gulf oil-producing states to import South Korean manpower.

Intal, however, cautions against putting the nation's economy solely in the hands of OFWs. All that hue and cry about the valuable contribution of overseas workers to the economy should not diminish several developments in diverse local fronts,he says.

He describes the tourism industry to be "at the cusp of a major breakthrough the way Thailand was in 1984." Tourism is a vital cog in national development since the industry is labor intensive and has multiple trickle-down effects on other sectors, from farming to handicrafts, Intal explains.

Just as promising is the agriculture sector that is on the rebound after years of neglect and low productivity. The AKI executive notes the improvement in the price of copra in the international market and the recent push for alternative energy sources like biofuels which could energize the rural economy. The best performing jetropa seeds come from development-challenged regions like Maguindanao, he adds.

Intal also points to a massive ship-building project in Subic by South Korea's Hanjin, that could lead to potential employment opportunities especially for high-skilled laborers.

All told, sums up Intal, there is money going around. And the immediate prospect is for more money coming in that, hopefully, would trickle down to all sectors in the near future. •

By Monette Quiogue
Photographs by Rodel Rotoni

It's a Man's World

Rustan's Men's Department is set on remaking itself as the ultimate men's store, offering international brands chosen specifically for the Philippine market

WOMEN shop, men pay the bills. Or so it goes most of the time. But Rustan's is out to change all that with its Men's Department.

Already setting its sights on remaking itself into the ultimate men's store, Rustan's Men's Department is out "to upgrade its merchandise and store ambiance to international level," according to an insider. The goal? To create a space where different world-class labels can be strategically displayed to enhance their individual identity, while being part of one big selling area.

The result? A shopping environment that will make the men come out and play.

Is this Rustan's way of competing with international stores? Not at all. Rustan's is out to focus on brands and styles that are targeted for the Philippine market. Merchandise will be especially chosen for existing customers—Filipino men and the women who shop for them. Even international brands, from classic to contemporary, will be chosen based on the dictates of the Philippine market.

Here are some of the brands that Filipino men can look forward to:

To Boot New York

Each season, To Boot New York introduces an exciting collection of footwear that's modern, versatile and wearable, as well as powerfully elegant new dress shoes for business and sartorial dressing. Using only natural materials and incorporating the latest in comfort technology, To Boot New York carries some of the most comfortable and wearable footwear in the market today.

Men's wear: World-class merchandise centered on luxury and quality

Clarins Men

Clarins has long been known as the Skin Care Specialist, a distinction that men can now enjoy with its new range of products. Discover Clarins line of shaving products, moisturizers, hair and body care items. Kiss rough stubble goodbye with Skin Difference. Fight dull complexion with the Active Face Scrub. Get a refreshing boost after a long business meeting with the Fatigue Fighter. The entire product line contains plant extracts with purifying, energizing and soothing properties that will keep men's skin in great condition.

John Varvatos

The look of John Varvatos? Effortless sportswear. The label created for men who want a stylish upscale look that isn't screaming "trendy!!!" is always in fashion. No wonder John Varvatos is a mainstay in posh department stores like Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom, Bloomingdales and Barneys.

Vitaman

Vitaman is an Australian company that manufactures a natural hair and skin care line for men, using unique Australian plant extracts that have been used by indigenous aborigines for thousands of years.

Rustan's Men's Department will also be introducing new brands such as James Perse, AG denim, Magnani, Ernst Benz watches and a selection of leather goods sure to appeal to any man.

Although changes are in store, one thing remains: Rustan's Men's Department continues to be centered towards luxury, quality and world-class merchandise and a brand mix that caters to the discriminating man. Men who know what they want know that they can get it at Rustan's. •

Essay

By Michael L. Tan

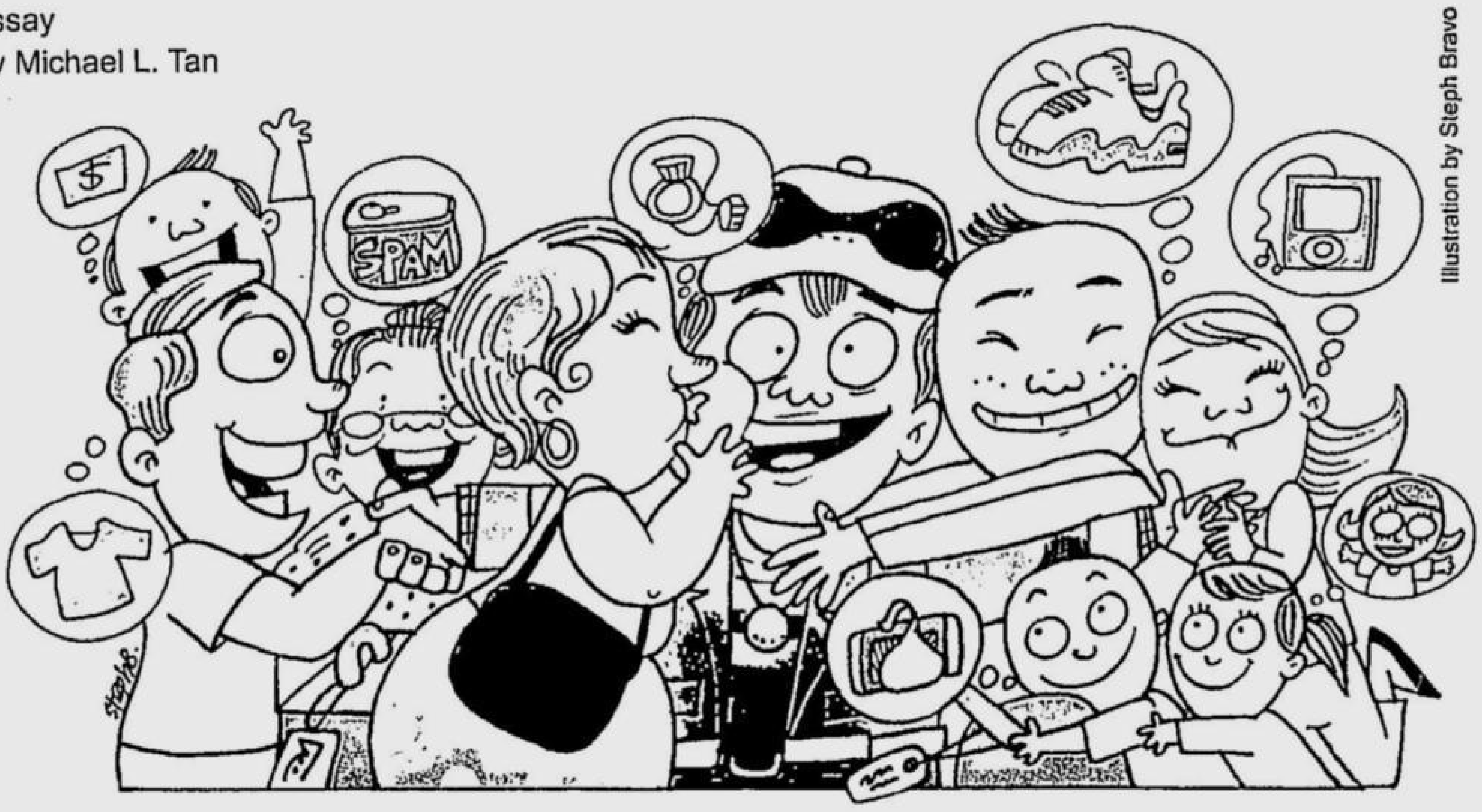

Illustration by Steph Bravo

One-day Millionaires

I FIRST heard the term from a lower middle class family, welcoming home a daughter who had just finished a six-month stint in Japan as an entertainer. I was doing research in their community and happened to be there when she came home from the airport amid much fanfare—and expectations. She had saved and brought home several *lapads* (10,000-yen notes) and US dollars which, I later found out, amounted to almost P250,000.

The term came from the entertainer's mother, her way of warning her daughter to watch her money. Yet, I could sense that the entertainer's own family was going to be the main source of problems. Even while she was unpacking, they were already talking about a low-cost housing project in a nearby province, and how a *sari-sari* store could help them meet their needs. All quite understandable aspirations, but in addition, her siblings were already asking for iPods and new clothes and shoes while other relatives were asking for blow-outs. One or two joked, half-seriously, about needing a loan.

I've seen other returning overseas workers who lived up to the term "one-day millionaire," checking in the entire family into a five-star hotel and going off on shopping sprees, literally for a taste of the good life. In Filipino, they'd say "*para naman makatikim ng* 5-star *at* steak." In a twist on the description "wine, women and song," some returning entertainers also party way into the night, painting the town red by going off with their other girl friends to gay bars to watch macho dancers, ordering drinks left and right and leaving large tips.

> **"We misuse our good fortune under social pressure. We do have an extended family system where people feel entitled to their share of new wealth."**

This young woman was different, talking about how she wanted to go back to school and give her daughter—she was a single mother—a better life. But a few months later she was dead broke, money all gone. Some of her savings went into small livelihood ventures but those floundered quickly. Meanwhile, the Japanese government practically closed down the recruitment of Filipina entertainers, shattering her dreams of another stint.

Gone are the japayuki, but the one-day millionaires are all around us. This is more than just a phenomenon of women returning from Japan. As a nation, we do tend to live beyond our means. When good fortune comes, we tend to squander it away quickly. It's partly a mentality of living for today, given that life is so uncertain especially in our times. There's fear that things won't last, the money will run out, so let's spend it now and get as much of the "good" life as we can.

Credit cards have, unfortunately, promoted this idea of "*luho*," enjoy now, worry later, prodded on by ads for luxury items. It's a bit like guests at a party who betray their lowly background as they pile up their plates with food, more than they can eat, again for fear that there won't be enough to go around.

In other instances, we misuse our good fortune under social pressure. We do have an extended family system where people feel entitled to their share of new wealth. And by extended, I mean friends of relatives of neighbors of relatives. Note how even the "*pasalubong*" tradition—the expectation of gifts whenever someone returns from a trip, no matter how short—is part of this sharing of fortunes. The expectations rise with the type of bounties that come their way, whether a few hundred pesos for a lotto ticket, or a multi-million prize for boxing.

Ask and you shall receive. And we oblige all who ask because we foolishly think it boosts our social status. It's all part of our tribal past, when the "big man" in a village had to build up followers and allies by throwing big feasts. The more elaborate and conspicuous, the better to show one's power, and always one had to outdo the earlier displays of wealth.

How do we change all this? I know one extreme case where the wife of the returning seafarer would practically lock her husband up each time he returned home, until he'd leave again. She'd pretend to be naughty, saying that she wanted her husband all to herself, but her intentions were clear, securing him from people wanting loans.

I think we'll just have to start with our own backyards using less drastic ways. Generally, we need to promote an idea of a social sharing of good fortune, not in terms of extravagant blow-outs but of some kind of community or communal endeavor: one *pasalubong* for the whole office for example, or for a returning overseas worker, some kind of donation to the whole clan, or gifts of some social use for the community like books or new desks for a school, for example. It's already started with *balikbayans*, and hopefully, it could set a new trend. Let's hope with time, people will realize that it's a good thing to want to share good fortune, but that it's better if, like that story in the New Testament, we could multiply our blessings more times over before distributing it. •

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photos courtesy of The Amado V. Hernandez Resource Center

The Blood of a Poet

On November 30, four National Artists join forces in a concert to remember the work and words of the extraordinary Amado V. Hernandez

Brave new words: Hernandez (center) flanked by wife Atang dela Rama and son Rene; throngs turned out for Hernandez's funeral in 1970 (above, right)

"POETS, too, must know how to fight." Uncle Ho Chi Minh might have had Amado V. Hernandez in mind when he penned that line. While Ho was rallying his countrymen to drive the French out of their homeland, Hernandez—a poet who knew how to fight—was languishing in the New Bilibid Prison on a subversion charge. This, however, did not stop him from composing his greatest masterpieces.

The grateful Vietnamese named their capital after Ho, but how many Filipinos remember *Ka* Amado, our first National Artist for Literature? How many are still stirred on first reading *"Panata sa Kalayaan"* or *"Isang Dipang Langit"*? Or have their conscience awakened upon reading *"Mga Ibong Mandaragit"*? All too few. Yet Hernandez's work is as relevant today as when he first wrote them half a century ago; the social injustices that he railed and fought against are still here, and so are the forces that put him in jail. The more things change…

On Nov. 30, a much-deserved tribute will be paid to *Ka* Amado's legacy as the Cultural Center of the Philippines, in cooperation with the Amado V. Hernandez Resource Center, stages "Amado, *Minamahal*…," a concert featuring the poet's works. No ordinary concert, "Amado, *Minamahal*…" brings together the collective talents of National Artists Bienvenido Lumbera (Literature, 2006), Napoleon V. Abueva (Sculpture, 1976), Ben Cabrera (Painting, 2006), and Salvador Bernal (Theater and Design, 2003), who collaborated on the script, stage design, posters and visuals, and costumes, respectively. The concert will also feature the music of the late National Artist Lucio San Pedro (Music, 1991), which will be performed by a hundred-voice choir composed of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philippine Madrigal Singers and the Bonifacio Choir, and accompanied by a pure dance performance by the Ballet Philippines. Set to be staged at the CCP main theater, "Amado, *Minamahal*…" will be directed by Chris Millado.

Says scriptwriter Bien Lumbera: "The script for 'Amado, *Minamahal*…' has been structured according to the three dominant themes of his poetry, namely, freedom, justice and human rights." He adds, "The three themes are the pressing concerns of our society today as the present administration has allowed the military to exercise unwarranted power to enforce compliance with its political designs." Lumbera believes that Hernandez's works, though written in the 1950s, still have a message for contemporary Filipinos.

Explains this National Artist for Literature: "After he was released, *Ka* Amado was simply transported from the repressive confines of a prison cell to the repressive world outside where an anti-subversion law hang like a sword of Damocles over the heads of writers whose ideas could be interpreted as bearing traces of socialist or communist ideologies." But Hernandez, says Lumbera, continued to think and write as a free individual. His works have much to say to Filipinos today. "His *"Panata sa Kalayaan"* is a message to the post-EDSA and post-9/11 Philippine society under the Arroyo regime, where the Human Security Act hangs over the heads of men and women who vigilantly struggle for freedom, justice and human rights." Hernandez was the epitome of the engaged artist, a man of action who nevertheless still had the sensitivity to give voice to the inchoate cries of the suffering masses. The need for men like him hasn't diminished, says Lumbera.

Hernandez was born in 1903 in Hagonoy, Bulacan but grew up in Tondo, Manila. He was only 19 when he joined Aklatang Bayan, a literary group which included established Tagalog writers such as Lope K. Santos and Jose Corazon de Jesus. In 1932, he married stage actress Atang de la Rama, who would also become a National Artist. When the Japanese invaded the Philippines, Hernandez became a guerrilla. It is believed that he first encountered the ideas of socialism through the Hukbalahap movement. After the war, Hernandez became a Manila councilor and a labor leader, organizing the biggest strike ever in Manila in 1947, and coming to the attention of the military. In 1951, during a crackdown on the Huk rebellion then raging in Central Luzon, Hernandez was arrested and eventually charged with rebellion with murder, arson and robbery—a complex crime unheard of in Philippine legal history. The case became a celebrated civil rights issue, drawing the support of such legal luminaries as Claro M. Recto, Jose P. Laurel and Claudio Teehankee. Nevertheless, Hernandez wasn't released until 1956, and he wasn't acquitted until 1964 in a landmark decision that is still invoked to this day.

By that time, Hernandez had already written the works that he would be remembered for. He died in 1970, but his words live on: *"Pilipino akong sa pambubusabos ay hindi susukol* (I am a Filipino who will never, ever give in to oppression)." •

Tickets available at all Ticketworld outlets. For discounted or group sales, contact the Amado V. Hernandez Resource Center at (02)412- 0909 or 0916-7900671, or email avhrc_philippines@yahoo.com

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★ Answers in PDI, Nov. 19 issue 11/18

Answer to previous puzzle

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all hair & make-up Rustan's Dept. Store
volume 21 no. 37 November 18, 2007
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from page 14

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SIM: Let's talk about the store. Tell us what exactly it is you do for the store?
KAT: I am a buyer for imported resort wear for the Ladies Division. I am slowly re-launching the summer '08 (February '08) collection of Ladies High Street footwear and bags. And re-launching a Kid's High Street boutique in April '08.

SIM: When people think Rustan's, they usually think luxury. Define your concept of "ultimate luxury"?
KAT: Luxury is no longer defined as that which is most expensive, because many consumers are no longer attracted by the thought of conspicuous consumption. While it may still be a motivator for some, the thought of going for the most expensive only because of the brand, or simply because you can, does not appeal to most others. The so-called "luxury brands," in fact, are no longer just ends unto themselves, but also means to even larger personal aspirations. This is because luxury today has taken on a whole new meaning - it is increasingly defined as an expression of individuality, through the unique and highly personal experience that the luxuries help provide. Following this definition, it is easy to appreciate that luxury has gone mainstream, with increasing numbers of consumers wanting luxury at the best price—and expecting it. So I would say luxury is functional, it is reward and indulgence.

> **"Luxury today is increasingly defined as an expression of individuality"**

SIM: How will you evoke luxury in Rustan's, the store? And in the women's department?
KAT: Rustan's' role is to make the customer feel right at home in an environment of luxury through the interior spaces, the products that we provide, enhanced by the personal service of our staff. All these features put together provide the warm, welcome feeling of an escape from the pressures of life. The importance of building trust and confidence is essential to the culture of our business.

SIM: And how would you describe Rustan's customers?
KAT: Anyone who walks into the store is a customer. And our customers are the people we strive to serve, please, excite and satisfy.

SIM: What are your plans for the women's department in the coming year/s?
KAT: The store as a whole will evolve as retail environments evolve. We've got a number of plans ongoing. Our ultimate goal is to create an environment that adapts to the changing needs of our customer and the retail landscape worldwide.

SIM: What's your favorite aspect of retail?
KAT: I love that it's an industry that is constantly transforming and challenging you to push yourself to do better than you've done in the past. It's a rat race of challenge after challenge.

SIM: And your least favorite?
KAT: Oh, same answer as above.

SIM: What are your top three favorite retail spaces outside the country, and why?
KAT: Barney's New York is the best edited fashion space. Printemps in Paris, France—a true European department store space. And, of course, Urban Outfitters and Anthropologie, USA—they have the most exciting lifestyle stores (in which) to discover new things.

SIM: What fashion brands for women's are you into now?
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'007 Conceptis Puzzles . Dist by King Feature . Syndicate Inc

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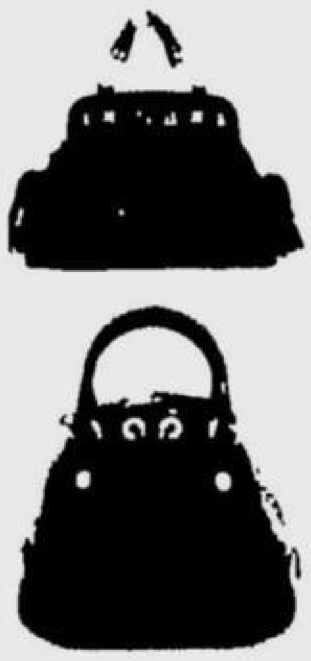
HOT GOODS

Well-designed, well-made items are the favorites of shoppers in Rustan's. Here are the chart toppers:

Photographs by Rudy Esperas

Botkier

These bags are made for the practical but definitely sexy modern women. A native to New York City, Monica Botkier delved into the fashion industry in 2003. Remaining true to her brand philosophy of creating the ideal, Monica fearlessly embarks on bringing the brand to the next level, consistently introducing custom materials, designs and tackling new markets.
Celebrities seen wearing the brand: Heidi Klum, Jessica Alba, Angelina Jolie, Hilary Duff, Kate Bosworth, Sienna Miller, Sarah Jessica Parker



Isabella Fiore

For years the Isabella Fiore brand has led the fashion pack with innovative, upbeat, and playful accessory collections. They have taken European sophistication and the free-spirited American lifestyle and forged a new direction for affordable luxury fashion accessories. If you want to stand out from the crowd, an Isabella Fiore on your arm will do the trick.
Celebrities seen wearing the brand: Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon, Paris Hilton

Rafe

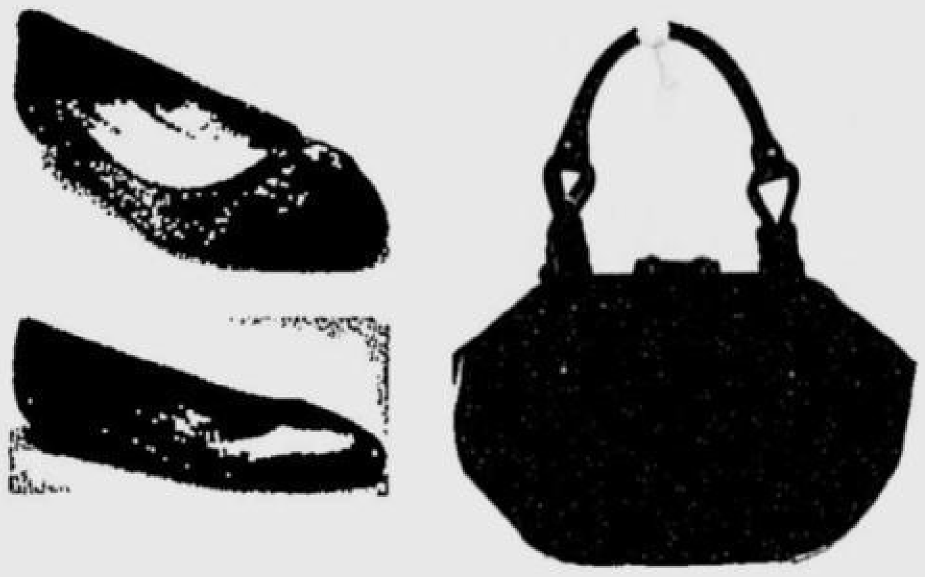
The Rafe viewpoint reflects the diversity of New York City. Cultures and influences mingle in their design resulting in collections that are fresh and modern but with an eclectic sense of heritage that transcends seasons or location. It's a viewpoint that attracts like-minded, stylish and unique individuals.

Celebrities seen wearing the brand: Jessica Alba, Vanessa Minillo, Eva Longoria, Carolyn Murphy, Lindsay Lohan

PF Flyers

The Posture Foundation insole became the basis for the brand name PF Flyers, considered the gem of the original American sneaker brands. PF offers a fashionable range of sneaker-based styles beyond athletic, including oxfords, heels and boots.

All items available at Rustan's



Loeffler Randall

The Loeffler Randall line offers the perfect lifestyle assortment of shoes, bags and RTW for the chic and modern girl. The shoes were designed to convey understated elegance that most of us seek but can't find. The Loeffler Randall brand embodies luxury and downtown elegance.
Celebrity seen wearing the brand: Cameron Diaz

Tumi

Tumi is the leading international brand of luxury travel, business and lifestyle accessories. Since its founding in 1975, Tumi's commitment to design excellence, functional superiority and technical innovation has made it the brand of choice for the world's most discerning and demanding consumers.

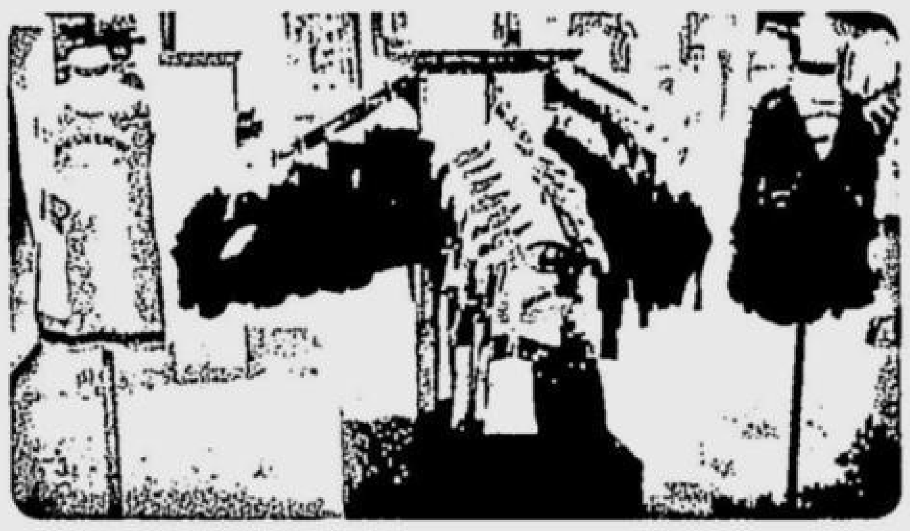
Tusk

Like the ivory amulet of its namesake, Tusk is a sublime blend of the bold and sensuous in color and design. Asian influences are wondrously evident throughout the fine Italian leather handbags and accessories. Each piece features spicy, saturated colors from hand-applied vegetable dyes and signature stainless steel and natural horn hardware.

By Isha Andaya

Hip, hands-on and headstrong

Hindy Weber-Tantoco takes to her job as head of Rustan's children's line like a woman drawing up her battle plans. Always in full control, she's laid out a total lifestyle concept for children's wear.


Rodel Rotoni

TO any fashionable female who came of age when the Rustan's U department first surfaced, the name Hindy Weber-Tantoco has always been equated with hip, of-the-moment, got-to-have-it clothing. Today she's the iconic face in the U Swim and Culte Femme campaigns—aptly so as she best renders her ladies' line into coveted objects. Very soon, she'll be taking on the post as designer for Rustan's in-house children's brand Jam.

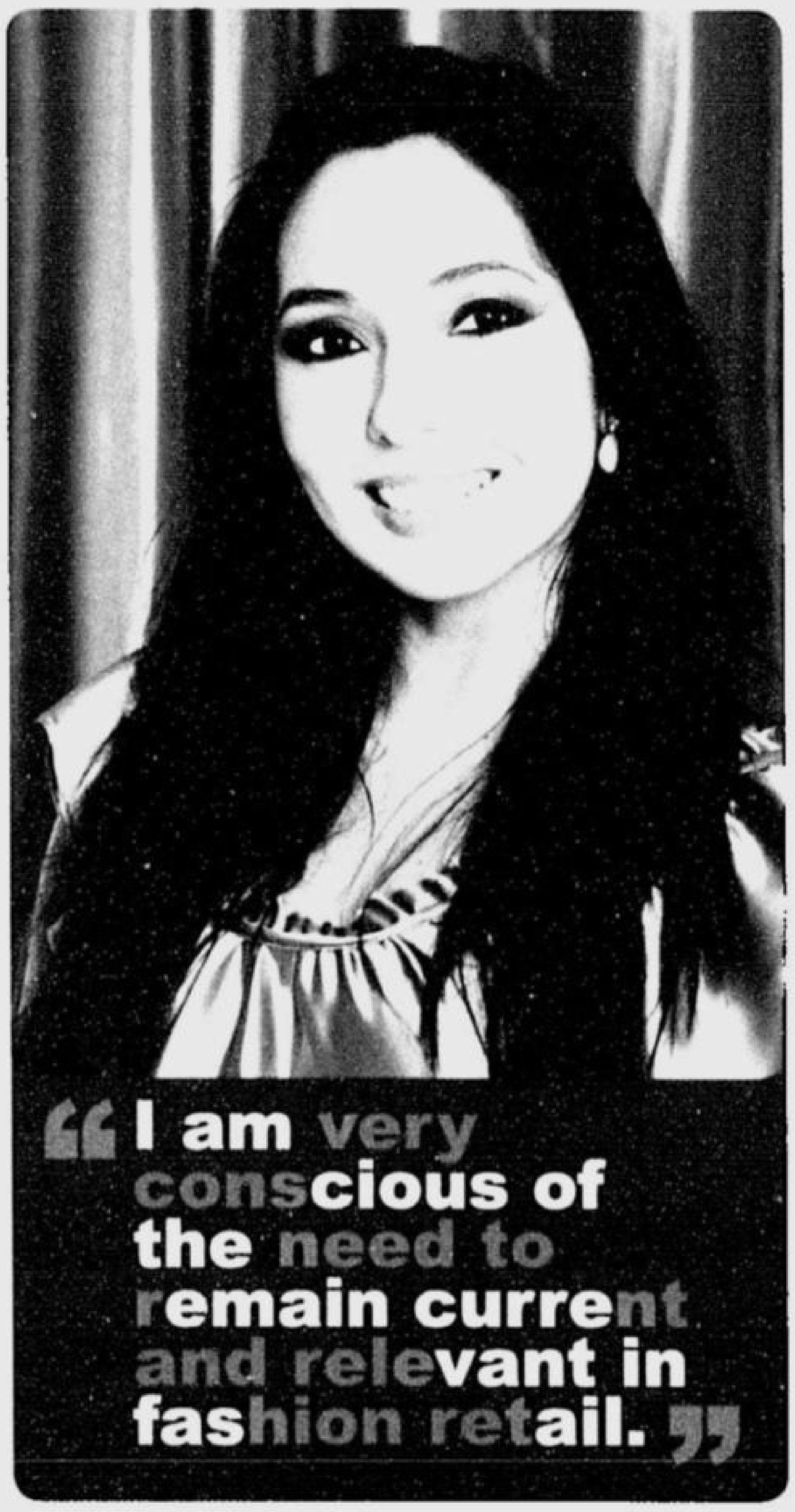
It does seem like her career is taking parallel strides along with her personal life, but Hindy demurs, "It was never intentional or strategic."

Let's start at the beginning. Hindy was living in New York when her husband's cousin, Rica de Jesus, then head of Rustan's Teens Department, presented her the idea of working with the foremost luxury department store in Manila. However, it was only when the couple finally decided to move back to Manila in 2000 that Hindy considered the offer.

Her growth as a designer coincided with the expansion of her family. "When I got pregnant, it was natural for people to ask me to design maternity clothes," Hindy recounts. "And when they'd see me around with my children, they would encourage me to design children's clothes. I resisted the suggestion because I don't like doing things blindly or haphazardly."

The need for a new designer for the Children's division came at the right moment. "It came at a time when I needed a new creative challenge, so I took it on," says Hindy. "But I am very conscious of the need to remain current and relevant in fashion retail. I am not going to necessarily start designing clothes for an older market when I get older!"

Taking on the job of designing for Jam doesn't mean she'll be letting go of Culte Femme and U Swim. The position is merely an addition to her already brimming job description. At first glance, the shift from teens and ladies' wear to children's seems far-reaching as the markets appear so different. For Hindy though, it's not so much a change in focus but an addition to her constantly growing range of interests.



> **"I am very conscious of the need to remain current and relevant in fashion retail."**

"Whatever it is I take interest in, I somehow end up applying my taste or aesthetic to it."

So what's on her to-do list? As one who is naturally hands-on with the development of all her brands, Hindy laughs: "First thing I plan to do is get an assistant!"

Kidding aside, she lays out her battle plans like a woman in full control. "I plan to re-launch the Jam line," she says. "The merchandise mix will consist of apparel, shoes, bags, undies, jammies, and accessories. We'll be carrying a lot of great, affordable, stylish, good-quality children's clothes from in-house brands like Rustanette and Rustan's Jr. The floor will also house other local children's brands like Gingersnaps, Tarte Tatin, Spin, Orange Juice."

All this in perfect tune with Rustan's sales campaign focused on luxury. Says Hindy: "It's a total lifestyle concept for children. We'll start by refurbishing the entire store. Then we are getting imported luxury children's brands from Europe and the US as well as re-launching Rustan's own private label brand. We are also improving the merchandise assortment with more high-end products."

Faced with developing a line at a time when so many new, high-end shops are sprouting, Hindy looks to the competition as something healthy for the economy rather than something to be feared. "Having over 50 years of experience in luxury retail is our foremost advantage," she says. "Our challenge is to remain up-to-date with everything—merchandise, technology, marketing. Our focus is not geared to our competitors but on our internal structure and to our top priority, our customers."

Hindy has been on top of her game since day one. Seven years later, Manila's fashion set, both the very young and the older ones, still have so much to look forward to. This certainly won't be the last update on the fashionable to-do's of Ms. Hindy Tantoco.

New and Improved

They are currently developing a new concept for Buzzy Bees Café. "It will be a nice surprise for kids," says Mariel Joaquin, manager for the Children's Division. The additions include an area devoted to party favors, a playground, and a secluded breastfeeding section for moms.

Stellar Service

The current Baby Registry assists mothers with their baby's first needs. Now the luxury boutique plans to give Santa a run for his money with the first-ever Christmas Registry for Children. Mariel explains, "Kids can choose the gifts they'd like to receive for Christmas and we send the lists to their parents, grandparents, other relatives, ninongs and ninangs."

Forward to the Future

"We will be launching our Children's High Street boutique sometime in April 2008," says Mariel. "The shop will carry mainly children's apparel, accessories, and furniture.

Hip, hands-on and headstrong

Hindy Weber-Tantoco takes to her job [illegible] of Rus[illegible] line like a woman drawing up her battle pla[illegible] full [illegible] she's laid out a total lifestyle concept fo[illegible] hild[illegible]

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New and Improved

[illegible]

Stellar Service

[illegible]

Forward to the Future

[illegible]

from page 10

At the same time, her star kept rising as the caterer to the A-list. Name an AAA-list event—wedding, launch, anniversary—and she's bound to have been in charge of the kitchen. I ask her if it's been tough catering to this select crowd. She mentions some challenges but manages to end each story with a silver lining that you can't help but be fascinated by her.

When Chris Yang, son of McDonald's George Yang, got married, the young couple had no one but Fores in mind, but she initially turned them down because a guest list of 800 was just a little too much for her, especially since they had to set up a kitchen on-site. Mr. Yang and his bride would not take no for an answer, so the concept of an assembly line for 1,000 guests was born. "Now we can cater for a thousand guests easy!" she says, beaming.

But Fores' favorite event of all was a dinner at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Not in the lobby but onstage. An international bank was wooing potential clients. When the curtains went down, guests exited from the Nicanor Abelardo Hall to the lobby only to come back a few minutes later to go up the stage where dinner took its turn as the star of the show. The waiters made their entrance not from the wings but from the main doors of the theater, down the aisle, then up the stage. Fores cooked from the wings. "Imagine, we had 12 minutes to set up!... We had a 'dress rehearsal' the night before and the waiters were given stage directions."

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73: Percentage of members of upper class ABC in Metro Manila who own designer clothes

72: Percentage of members of upper class ABC in Metro Manila who own designer leather goods

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research
Sources: Forbes.com, Nielsen Media Research, Inquirer Archives

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from page 10

At the same time, her star kept rising as the caterer to the A-list. Name an AAA-list event—wedding, launch, anniversary—and she's bound to have been in charge of the kitchen. I ask her if it's been tough catering to this select crowd. She mentions some challenges but manages to end each story with a silver lining that you can't help but be fascinated by her.

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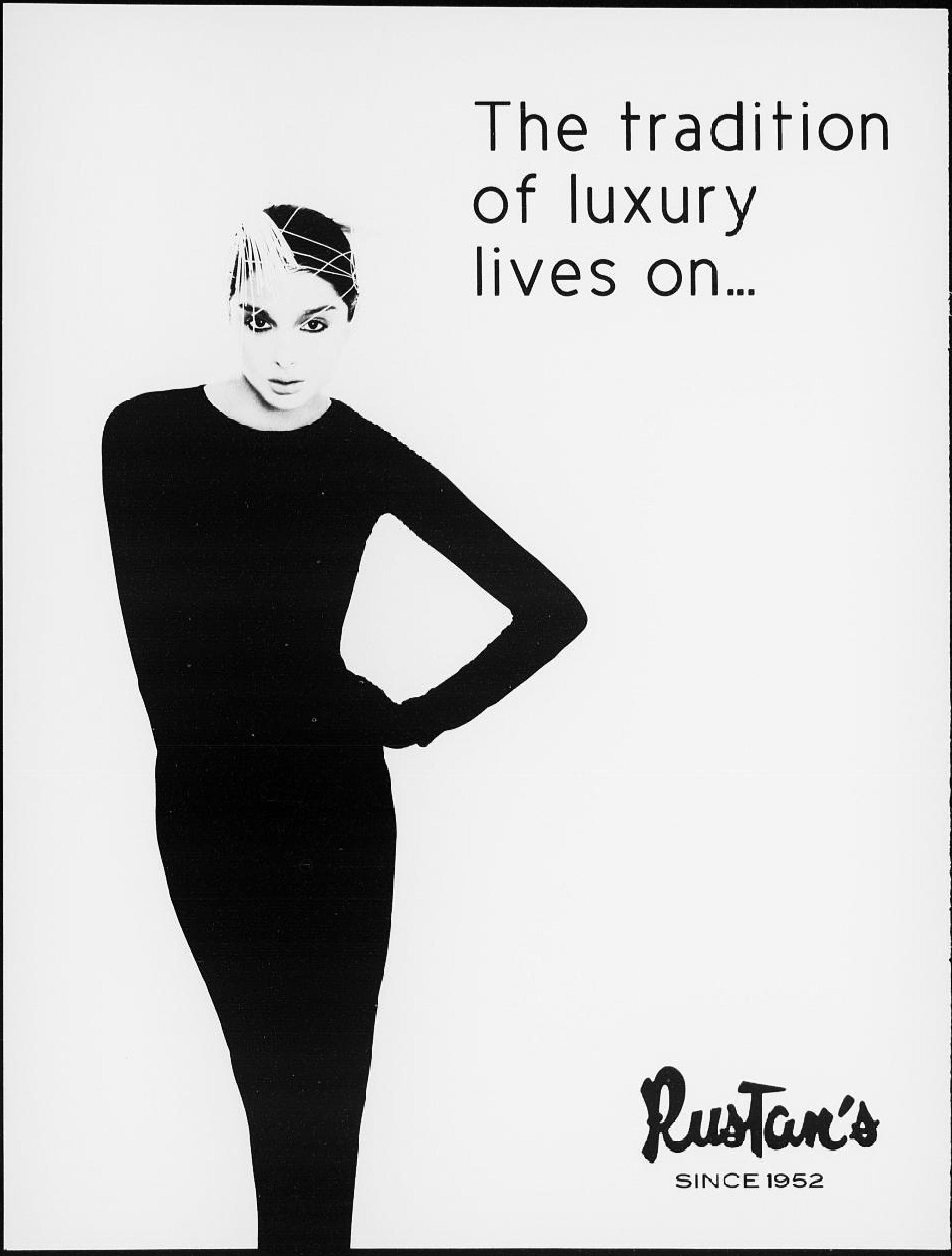
The tradition of luxury lives on...
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